Lifestyle
Tampa has a lot to offer this winter A3

Sports
Shawsheen rules the roost again as Div. 5 state champs B5W

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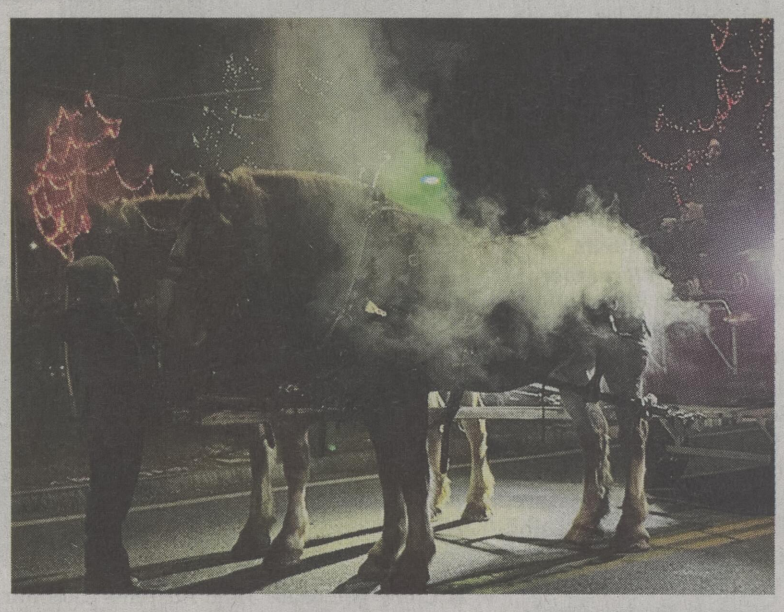
Wilmington's tree lighting event!



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

• Santa waves to the crowd among a spray of fireworks at the Wilmington Town Common during the town tree lighting last Saturday (Paige Impink photo)

• Steam rises off of Mac and Miles, Belgian draft horses from Kimball Farm in Haverhill. The horses pulled residents on wagon rides as part of the Wilmington tree lighting event on Saturday evening. (Paige Impink photo)

• Wilmington high school cheerleaders served up cookies and cocoa at Wilmington's annual tree lighting. (Rosalyn Impink photo)

• Santa meets with children at the tree lighting (Paige Impink photo)

Nomination papers for Wilmington town election available in January

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — For those looking to throw their hats into the political arena for the upcoming 2026 annual town election, nomination papers for the Town of Wilmington's elected offices will be available at the beginning of January 2026.

Applications for nomination papers are available at the Wilmington Town Clerk's Office.

This upcoming election year, there are six elected positions that will be open.

The Select Board has two seats opening that are both three-year terms.

There are also two seats available for the Wilmington School Committee, both with a three-year term.

Two seats are open for the Housing Authority, one open seat has a five-year term, the other has a four-year term.

The Town Clerk's Office is located at the Wilmington Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Room 12.

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 8:30 am to 7 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to noon.

New voters can register to vote at the Wilmington Town Clerk's office anytime during regular office hours, or online at *www.wilmingtonma.gov*.

The last day to register to vote for the annual town election is Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

The deadline to request absentee ballots or vote by mail ballots for the annual town election is Monday, April 20,2026.

ELECTION | PAGE A7W

School improvement plans highlighted

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — A number of presentations were made before the School Committee at their Dec. 3 meeting.

First, student representatives from WMS gave updates on upcoming and ongoing projects such as their new Dungeons & Dragons club and the middle school's performance of Shrek the Musical.

Next, interim Superintendent David Thomson presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Academic Excellence Award to Will Poyant. Poyant is an AP student, an accomplished athlete, and has devoted much of his time

SCHOOL | PAGE A2W

Regulatory agreement signed involving 108-unit Princeton Properties development

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Select Board met for their last meeting before the holiday break on Dec. 8. Three appointments were scheduled for the meeting.

The first was with Valerie Gingrich, Wilmington's Director of Planning and Conservation, regarding the new Princeton Properties development. 22 affordable units will be included in the project, with 108 units overall.

Financing for this plan came from MassHousing, and a regulatory agreement governing the affordable units has been signed. This agreement, Gingrich explained, will last for 30 years, but those units that were deemed as affordable will remain as such after the agreement's end.

Lilia Maselli wanted to know if this agreement

SELECT | PAGE A8W

Near New Boston Street, Wilmington line

State soliciting proposals for Anderson RTC site

By PATRICK BLAIS

WOBURN — State officials early last week invited private builders to submit proposals for converting a six-acre portion of the Anderson Regional Transportation Center (RTC) into a mixed-use redevelopment with a heavy housing component.

During a City Council meeting on Tuesday night, Andrew Hargens, Massport's Chief Development Officer, explained the request-for-proposals (RFP) was sent directly to 250 developers on Monday and is also being broadly advertised via trade journals and construction industry websites.

Though seeking proposals for true mixed-use projects that include potential retail and commercial mixes, Hargens

RTC | PAGE A7W

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INDEX Lifestyle... A3, A6 | Middlesex East... B1 | Opinion... A4 | Police Logs... B4 | Sports... B5W

Wilmington Library News:

Jane Austen's Birthday Tea + Trivia on Tuesday, Dec. 16

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help
Tuesday, December 16, 2pm
Wednesday, December 17, 2pm
Thursday, December 18, 2pm
Saturday, December 20, 2pm
Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Jane Austen's Birthday Tea + Trivia
Tuesday, December 16, 6pm
Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday on December 16 with tea & trivia at the library! Janeites, casual fans, and those who just love a tea party are all welcome. We'll have themed prizes for the winners.

Novel Ideas
Thursday, December 18, 7pm
Enjoy reading fiction? Join the library's fiction book group led by Adult Services Librarian Erin. Please stop by the library to pick up a copy of the featured book. Featured Book: Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen.

Virtual Poetry Circle
Saturday, December 20, 9:15am
Do you enjoy writing poetry? Want input on your work? If so, this group is for you.

Youth Programs

Wilmington Community Playgroup
Monday, December 15, 10am
Join Community Teamwork Family Resource Network for a community playgroup where we'll work on Early Literacy skills and much, much more! Ask CTI about any resources they can help provide for you and your family. Ages 0-6, siblings welcome

Music with Dara
Wednesday, December 17, 10am
With keyboard, felt board, and finger puppets, Dara weaves songs (old and new favorites) and creative movement for a fun-filled musical program! Ages 2-5, siblings welcome

Family Craft Night: Jane Austen Inspired!
Wednesday, December 17, 6pm
Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday by enjoying crafts inspired by the Regency Era! Make miniature portraits or try your hand at lacing bookmarks! Ages 3+

Manga Tryouts
Thursday, December 18, 3:30pm
Have a say in manga purchased for the teen collection with this club! During each meeting, we'll sample 1st volumes of different manga and vote on whether it should be added to WML's collection. Grades 6-12

Sensory Discovery for Teens
Friday, December 19, 10:30am
Sensory Discovery is designed as an enrichment activity with fun games and crafts for neurodiverse teens! Ages 14-18

Switch it Up! Video Game Club
Friday, December 19, 3:45pm
Love video games? Come to this once-a-month video game club to play Switch games with friends! Grades 1-5

▲ Come celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with tea and trivia on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.! (Courtesy photo)

Additional Information

Library Resource: NoveList
Access NoveList through the WML Library! NoveList is a database that gives book and author recommendations based on criteria such as age, genre, or author. With curated lists and reading challenges, it's a database every reader will enjoy! Visit *www.wilmlibrary.org/econtent/research* for more info.

Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Bingo
Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th anniversary with us at WML! Now through Dec. 31, adults and teens are invited to play Jane Austen Bingo. Pick up a bingo sheet at the library, complete the activities, and return it to earn raffle ticket for our Austen-themed prize basket. Each completed bingo line counts as one raffle entry.

Save the Date!
Join us to speak French with other Francophile! WML has a new monthly group for anyone who loves to speak and listen to French. Join group leader, Nathalie Hayduk for this stress-free, low-key group to speak French on a more regular basis. The first meeting will be on Thursday, January 29th at 7pm. All future meetings will take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.!

Book Store Next Door
Celebrate the winter holidays with the Friends of the Library Bookstore Next Door! All November and December holiday-themed books are half-off to help you give the gift of literature this season. While the store will be open for last-minute shopping on Saturday, Dec. 20, it will be closed the following dates: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Saturday, Dec. 27 and Wednesday, Dec. 31. In January, the Bookstore Next Door will be open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March.

Museum Passes
The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting *www.wilmlibrary.org/services/mp.*

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming
Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at *www.wilmlibrary.org* or by calling (978) 658-2967.

Middle and high school principals unveil goals for next two school years

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

to volunteering for the community.

After shaking hands, Thomson jokingly remarked, "You have a speech prepared, right?"

A short recess followed wherein committee members had the opportunity to get a photo of Poyant with his award.

Michael Ferrara of Wilmington High School then discussed plans to take the marching band on a field trip to Florida next November. According to Ferrara, the school used to organize this trip every four years. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the trip had been put on hold indefinitely.

It is his hope that this will restart that tradition, so every student has the opportunity to go once during their high school career.

The field trip entails visits to different Disney assets such as the EPCOT center and Animal Kingdom. Aside from enjoying the parks, students will also be able to march in the Magic Kingdom parade.

Currently, the cost of the trip is expected to be roughly $1,700 per student, although that number may go down as fundraising events take place. It should also be noted that costs associated with meals, transportation, and security are all included in this price.

David Ragsdale wondered if the trip would be possible, considering how many students would have to be able to afford it to constitute a full marching band.

Ferrara acknowledged this as a concern, but reminded him that the $1,700 figure would only go down as additional funding is secured.

The committee voted unanimously to approve Ferrara's request.

District Safety Committee's (DSC) Jeremy Salerno was then called up to give his presentation on safety protocols.

Salerno brought with him what he referred to as a safety bucket — a large container filled with bandages, rope, retardant, and other materials intended to be used by a teacher in the event of an emergency.

Aside from providing classrooms with these resources, the DSC will initiate their Stop the Bleed program wherein they train staff members to bandage wounds.

"Essentially, it's CPR for trauma," said Salerno.

Ragsdale seemed unsure, as much of the proposed plan was strictly reactive, not proactive.

However, Salerno assured him that they are well aware of and fully utilize prevention practices in their safety plan.

Before moving on to the next presenters, it was announced that an interim principal had been found to replace principal Carreiro at the North Intermediate School. The search for a permanent replacement began later that week.

The school improvement plans for the middle and high school were then presented by Brian Caira and Ryan Gendron, respectively.

Caira's goals for the next two school years are:

1. Enhance school culture and improve student support

2. Refine interventions, and

3. Strengthen school-community partnerships

To do this, Caira said that expanded training programs for staff would be required. Also, he recommended establishing a Community Partnership Committee (CPC) in order to develop a strategic partnership plan between staff, families, and community representatives.

The creation of student-led conferences was also considered, along with the possibility of utilizing self-assessment tools for students and staff alike.

Gendron, on the other hand, gave his three goals as:

1. Improve instructional practices

2. Improve the curriculum, and

3. Expand and improve upon the Multi-tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) for student success

Gendron stated his hope that establishing an Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) will increase both the volume and variety of instructional feedback, which will in turn aid in reaching his first two goals.

He noted that, while this may be the most challenging part of his plan, the teachers at the high school have made it clear to him that they are open to the idea.

The final presentation of the night came from Keree Simmons on the FY25 Financial Closeout Report. The report was short but Simmons highlighted the fact that, of the $49 million budget, only around $5,000 was left over.

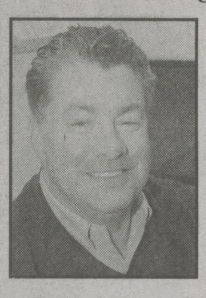
The committee shared his delight at this discovery, as it meant that the school district was making near-full use of every cent that was allocated to it without going over budget.

Mike Mercaldi excitedly noted, "The margin here we are talking about isn't within one percent, it isn't within a tenth of a percent, it is within a hundredth of a percent."

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 17.

Advertisement

It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois



UNDERSTANDING RENTAL PROPERTY DEPRECIATION:
PART I

Depreciation is the gradual decline in an asset's value due to wear and tear, age, and obsolescence. For rental properties, it creates a tax deduction that owners use to recover some of the cost of their investment over time. Rather than deducting the entire allowed amount in the year you've bought a property, the IRS requires spreading this deduction across what it considers the property's useful life.

Depreciation of rental properties has evolved since its 1913 introduction in the U.S. tax code. While owners initially estimated their property's useful life, the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act standardized depreciation periods. The current system was established in 1986.

Using depreciation for rental properties reflects a fundamental principle in tax law, namely that rental properties generate income over many years and their costs should be allocated across those years. While properties often appreciate over time, depreciation is recognized for tax purposes given the ongoing costs of aging structures and mechanical systems, even in rising markets.

Eligibility Requirements for Rental Property Depreciation

To be eligible, the IRS states that a property must meet specific criteria:

- The property owner must own the property outright, including if it's subject to a mortgage. Renters, lessees, and property managers don't qualify for depreciation deductions.
- The property must be used in a business or income-producing activity, such as rental operations. Personal residences or vacation homes used primarily by the owner aren't eligible unless they meet strict rental use requirements.
- The property must have one or more permanent structures. Land can't be depreciated because it doesn't wear out.

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WCTV news and notes

WCTV NEWS:

The season is changing and it's time we put a spotlight on two of our filmmakers programs: our after school young filmmakers and our advanced filmmakers.

The Great Pumpkin Smash
The WCTV after-school youth program took to taking care of the "long over due" pumpkin decorations...
https://youtu.be/1sX8DW0QDJI

The Cast of Guy Guy Take on the Hot Ones Challenge
"The Weather's Changing Boys" — so it's the perfect time to drop this special episode starring the cast and crew of WCTV's first feature length film Guy Guy. If you have not seen the full two hour film yet, please check it out! This video may have slight spoilers.
https://youtu.be/xBRxxbJ4-mM

Upcoming Live Programs (pending weather):
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. - Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball vs Lynn Vocational Tech

View on Main Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9

Upcoming Meetings:
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. - School Committee

View on Meetings/Government Channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 22

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WCTV Channels:
Public Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9
Meetings & Government: Verizon 38, Comcast 22
Access: Verizon 39, Comcast 99
To watch programs On-Demand or for more information, check us out at *WCTV.org*.

Lifestyle

Tampa has a lot to offer this winter

By ROSALYN IMPINK
News Correspondent

Missing the sun these days? If you're looking to escape our cold New England winters, Florida's west coast offers a chance to enjoy warmer climates, and Tampa is a great hub for your visit. Located on the Hillsborough River, Tampa provides historical, cultural, and recreational opportunities for everyone.

Tampa was originally settled by indigenous peoples, before Spanish explorers and American military troops arrived and set up outposts. Once Florida entered the United States, development grew, and Tampa quickly emerged as a tourist destination and major mining and shipping hub in the 19th century.

Today, Tampa is home to the University of Southern Florida, a thriving business community, and plenty of palmettos.

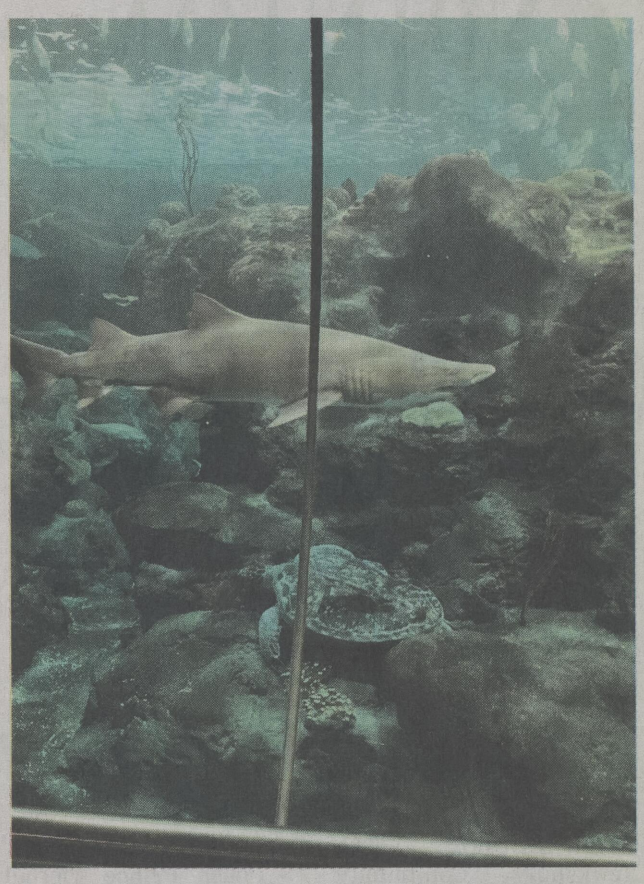
Downtown Tampa is ringed by the 2.6-mile Riverwalk, linking major points of interest with a paved, expansive footpath that opened in 2020. The Riverwalk lets visitors get up close to the river and provides easy access to some of the city's top destinations, including the Tampa Bay History Center, the Tampa Museum of Art, the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, and the Tampa Theater, a 100-year-old atmospheric movie palace.

The Riverwalk is well-lit, safe, and frequently traveled, making it easy to move between destinations.

Another way to get around is Tampa's heritage streetcar system. The adorable yellow streetcars are free and shuttle passengers between downtown and the city's historic district, hitting several destinations along the way, including Amalie Arena, home of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Service runs every 15 minutes, and runs late hours for visitors enjoying the city's nightlife.

▲ Historic Ybor City made Tampa the cigar capital of the world. Today, it's a unique neighborhood to visit, shaped by a blend of cultures.
(Rosalyn Impink photo)



▲ Sharks and sea turtles are just some of the magnificent beasts at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa.
(Rosalyn Impink photo)

Speaking of nightlife, some of the best is found in Ybor City. By day, this historic neighborhood proudly tells the story of how Tampa became known as the Cigar City; Cuban, Spanish, and Italian immigrants flocked to the city in the late 19th century, producing half a billion cigars per year and shaping a unique culture and cuisine.

You can't leave Florida without enjoying a Cubano sandwich and some strong Cuban coffee. Keep an eye out for the neighborhood's famous residents — free roaming chickens descended from livestock of the city's original immigrant farmers that are now protected by city statute.

Be sure to stop by the Florida Aquarium for a look at the creatures that call Florida home. The 250,000 square foot aquarium provides an immersive look at diverse local fauna through interactive exhibits. The coral reef habitat features magnificent sea turtles, lurking sand tiger sharks, and thousands of brilliant fish. A stingray touch tank and tidal pool lets visitors have a hands-on encounter with curious creatures.

A highlight is the Wetlands Trail, enclosed in an 80-foot glass biodome. Conservation takes a center stage as visitors get up close and personal with native ducks, otters, alligators, fish, and more.

Tampa is a vibrant city with hidden gems waiting to be discovered. If your travels take you to Florida's west coast, be sure to see what this riverside city has to offer.

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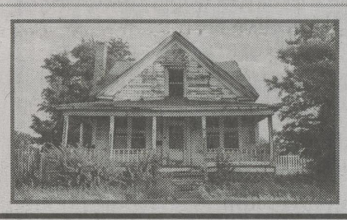

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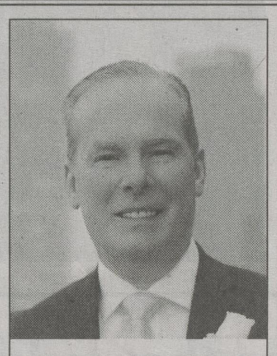
'Tis the season to save:

Eversource shares holiday efficiency and safety tips

BOSTON — As homes and neighborhoods across Massachusetts light up for the holidays, Eversource is sharing simple ways customers can create a festive atmosphere while managing energy use, saving money and staying safe throughout the season.

"From holiday lights and family gatherings to extra time spent cooking, this is a busy and joyful time of year," said Eversource Energy Efficiency Manager Bill Stack. "We want our customers to enjoy every bit of it without worrying about higher energy use or safety risks. A few easy steps — like using LEDs, setting timers and being mindful of how and when appliances are used — can help reduce energy usage, make bills more manageable and keep celebrations safe."

Customers can reduce energy use by switching from older incandescent holiday lights to LED decorations, which use up to 90 percent less energy, last significantly longer, stay cooler and reduce the risk of fire. Using programmable timers ensures lights aren't left on all night, while advanced power strips can eliminate standby energy loss, particularly helpful for inflatables, some of which can add up to $12 per month to an energy bill.



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OPINION

Tewksbury Community Market to hold special market on Thursday, December 18

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Community Market is holding a special indoor market on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m., inside the large hall at the Tewksbury Senior Center (175 Chandler St.). Monthly winter markets will also take place on Thursday, Jan. 8 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Each monthly market features 25-30 vendors selling food and other products.

Vendors to be featured at the market on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m., include many of your favorites from the summer markets:

- Aaronap Cellars (wine)
- Baldwin Girl Scouts (girl scout cookies)
- Big Rich's Gourmet Hot Sauce & Marinade (hot sauce & marinade)
- Bittersweet Herb Farm (sauces, seasonings, oils, jams)
- Black Sheep Craft Ice Cream (ice cream)
- Blisspoint Meadery (mead)
- Bracelets By Meliss (bracelets)
- Empanada Dada Food Truck (empanadas)
- F-Word Farm (vinegar)
- Kari Lemor (romance author)
- KC StYleS Accessories (hair bows, earrings and other adorable wearables)
- Kidz Kouture (hair bows, headbands)
- KRM Chocolates (chocolate truffles, chocolate barks, chocolate dipped cookies)
- Lovely Essence Candle (soy wax candles & aroma products)
- Needful Things Thrift (handmade crystal beaded jewelry & accessories)
- Paper Pie (children's books)
- Polish Prince Pierogi (handcrafted pierogi, kielbasa & more)
- Seafood Express (seafood)
- Senior Center Boutique Consignment Shoppe
- Senior Center Gift Shop
- Soak It In Artisan Soap (handmade cold & hot process soaps, bath bombs, sugar scrubs)
- Sophie's Apples (gourmet candy apples)
- Tewksbury Garden Club
- Tewksbury Honey (honey)

Each shopper will also receive a free tote bag from Tewksbury Federal Credit Union (while supplies last).

Each month's vendors will be listed on the Market's website at *www.tewksburymarket.com*. For regular updates, check the Tewksbury Community Market's Facebook (*@TewksburyMarket*), Twitter/X (*@TewksburyMarket*), and Instagram (*@TewksburyCommunityMarket*) accounts.

The Tewksbury Community Market is organized through the Office of the Community/Economic Development Planner and the Library, in cooperation with the Senior Center, Health Department and Town Manager's Office.

Have a question about the market? Contact Community/Economic Development Planner Alex Lowder at 978-640-4370 x 248 or *alowder@tewksbury-ma.gov* or Community Outreach Librarian Robert Hayes at 978-640-4490 x 205 or *rhayes@tewksburypl.org*.

Semesnyei announces run for state senate seat

AMESBURY — Theodore Semesnyei, 265 Lions Mouth Road, submitted campaign paperwork last week with the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) as a Republican to run in the election to represent the Massachusetts Second Essex and Middlesex District, which includes the communities of Amesbury, Andover, Haverhill, Merrimac, North Andover, Tewksbury, and Wilmington.

2026 is an election year for the Massachusetts State Senate.

"The District needs a fighter," said Semesnyei. "I am strongly committed to advocating for transparency in state government, lowering our cost of living, and increased local aid."

Semesnyei likes to highlight his comfort dealing across the political spectrum and fearless nature with regard to voicing and doing what needs to be done.

"I am uniquely qualified having proven myself as someone who has worked across the political board and across the aisle and as a fighter. I am adept at coalition building having been involved in many grassroots efforts."

With a long history of challenging entrenched institutions and thinking on both sides, Ted will fight to bring strong and commonsense state leadership to the communities of the district.

Says Semesnyei: "We need to smash down the wall and change the culture of secrecy and insider games that primarily benefits a small group of connected insiders. 72% of Massachusetts voters on election day last year demanded transparency, which Beacon Hill is ignoring. We need to honor the will of citizens."

He adds, "Too many taxes, too much waste, and too many regulations choking the life out of our families, towns, and business activity. Much can be done to streamline regulations and wasteful spending, but it will never occur by sticking with a status quo politician. A fresh voice is needed for the District."

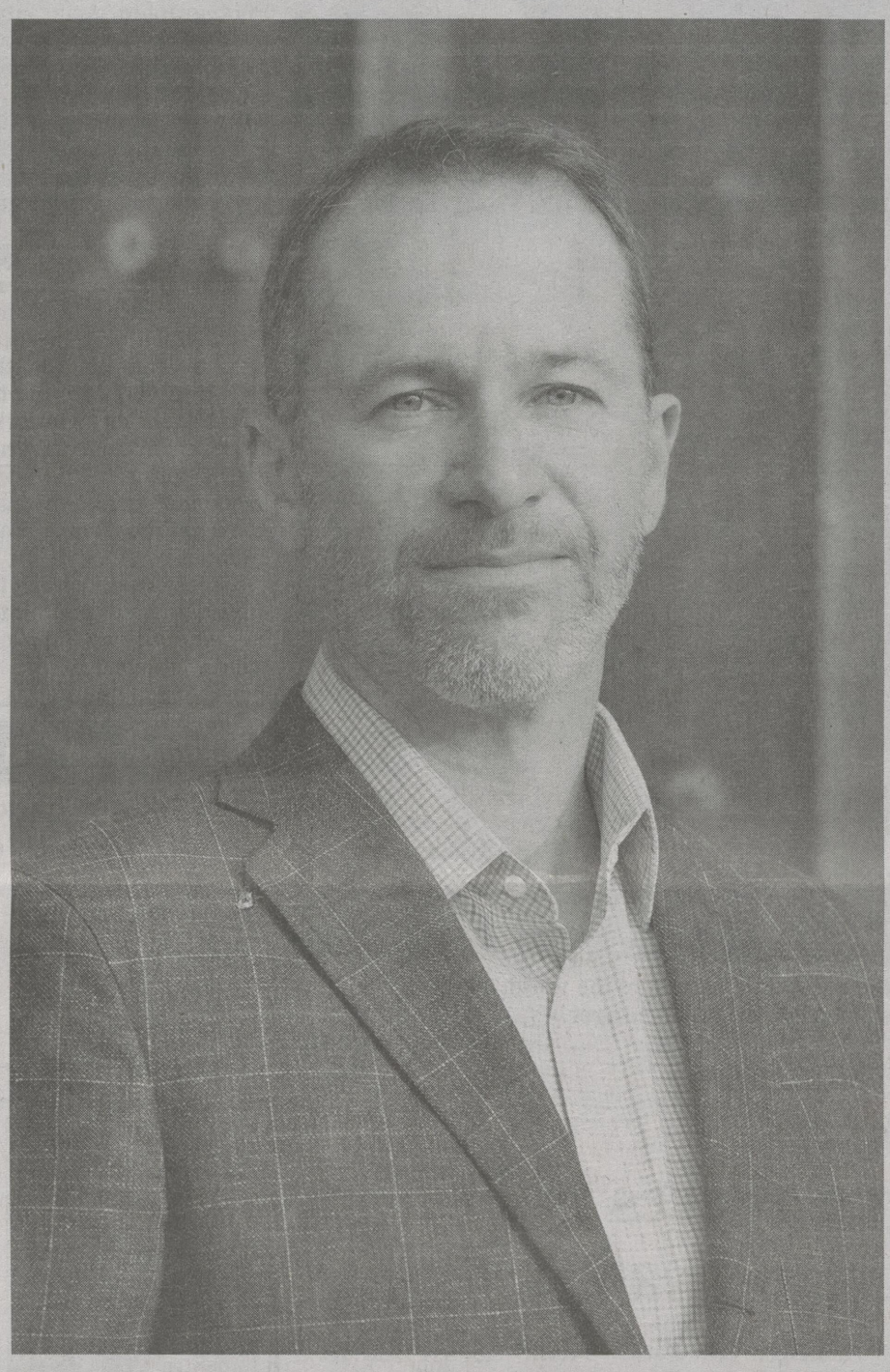
Finally, Semesnyei states: "Our state tax dollars are better spent at the community level on services that truly matter by increasing funding support for our local school districts, police and fire, and roads and sidewalks, as opposed to being swallowed up by the waste and politically motivated projects and policies on Beacon Hill."

Semesnyei, 51, is married and is the proud father and stepfather to four children ages 17, 16, 15, and 14.

A resident of Amesbury since 2004, he has long been politically active, outspoken, and a change agent on many issues. Semesnyei served eight years on the Amesbury Planning Board and worked for over a decade for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, where he helped secure funds for the Lower Millyard cleanup; led growth of acclaimed regional marketing campaign; and created the regional economic development master plan, to name a few.

Still, with Degrees in economics, political science, public management, and economic development, his background is diverse, including working 15 years as a global consultant and economist, working with some of the largest firms in the world. A passionate activist, he currently is volunteering for multiple causes of importance.

More information is available at *Semesnyei.com*.



◀ THEODORE SEMESNYEI
(Courtesy photo)

Governor Healey announces that federal heating assistance funding available

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey announced that the Trump Administration has released federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). After more than a month's delay, the federal funding was released yesterday, and all applications can now be processed.

"For more than a month, President Trump has forced American families to wait in the cold," said Governor Healey. "As we hit cold winter weather, we are relieved that funds are finally flowing now, and families can apply for help heating their homes. Our team has worked to make this funding available immediately, because our families cannot afford to wait. I'm grateful to Secretary Augustus and the team at the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for taking the necessary steps to ensure we were prepared to get the program started again as soon as the federal funding was made available."

"Home energy assistance is one of the most important tools we have to keep people safe in the winter. For many of the households we serve each year, HEAP is the difference between a warm home and an impossible choice between heat, food and medicine," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "Now that this funding has been released, our team and our local partners are moving quickly so that seniors, families with children and people with disabilities can get the help they need as the cold weather sets in."

LIHEAP is a federal program, referred to as the Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) in Massachusetts, that typically helps more than 150,000 Massachusetts households, representing over 300,000 people, afford to heat their homes during the winter each year. This federal funding usually becomes available in early November, but it was delayed due to the federal government shutdown. Even after the government reopened on Nov. 13, it took the Trump Administration nearly three weeks to release funding — a delay that Governor Healey criticized.

During the pause, the Healey-Driscoll Administration utilized leftover federal funding from last year to support households with a heating emergency. The Department of Public Utilities also extended its shut-off moratorium to Oct. 27, 2025 – April 1, 2026.

All eligible HEAP clients are now able to apply online for heating assistance.

Book Stew Review

'Wards of the State: The Long Shadow of American Foster Care' by Claudia Rowe

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This is an impressive analysis of the devastating impact of removing children from their parents and sending them into foster homes or, even worse, into group foster homes.

This would seem to be a cup half empty/cup half full situation, but not so, based on the anecdotes from five former foster children and from psychologists, social workers, and judges. The attachment from infant to parent that is so critical in development of a whole and healthy person is rarely achieved when a child is removed from their parents.

A more hopeful outcome is to identify family members who would receive the identical financial assistance given to foster parents, to bring an abandoned or abused child from their family into their own home.

As with any action under capitalism, where money trounces other human values, group homes are driven by financial goals and staff in the most important roles for our society are paid the least.

The statistics of the percentage of the prison population that are former foster children, close to 70%, is telling. Although unfortunate circumstances can still occur, avoiding adding children to a family already in distress would also be a wiser, and in many cases, more humane decision.

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Town Crier
Tewksbury - Wilmington
Office located at:
36 Commerce Way #410, Woburn, Ma. 01801
(978) 658-2346
E-Mail: Office@YourTownCrier.com
Publication No. 635-340
A Publication of the Woburn Daily Times, Inc.
36 Commerce Way #410, Woburn, Ma. 01801, published every Wednesday

Founder: Capt. Larz Neilson
Publisher: Peter M. Haggerty
News Editor: Ryan LaRoche
Advertising: Bruce Hilliard
Sports Editor: Doug Hastings

Subscription prices: Payable in advance.
In Wilmington and Tewksbury: $90 a year. Elsewhere $105 a year.

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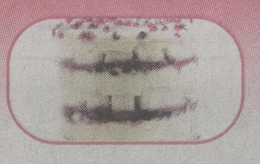
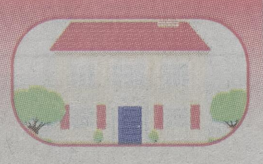
Recipe: Winter Eggnog Trifle Page B2



Real Estate Transfers Page B3



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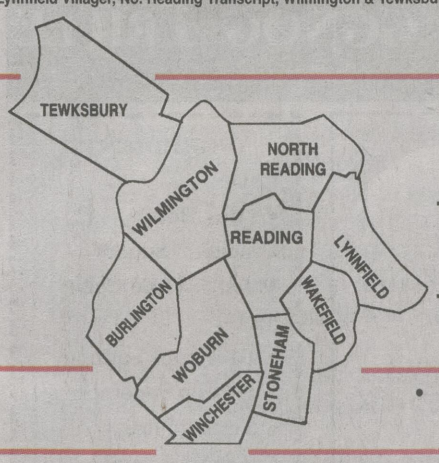

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2026: The year of change in Winchester

By RYAN LAROCHE

For most communities, the biggest change in any given year happens during an election: a new member of the School Committee, a new member of the Select Board or even a new mayor. For Winchester, while the town will still have its traditional spring town election in March, the biggest changes will happen before and after.

This is because of a few different factors, to include: former Town Manager Beth Rudolph's departure in September, Assistant Town Manager Mark Twogood's departure this month and a potential operating override vote and new form of governing Town Meeting in the spring.

When Rudolph left the town a few months ago, it left an opening the town filled with an interim hire. However, later this month, the town plans on interviewing three candidates for the full-time position. Those candidates are Joseph Domelowicz, Eric Duffy and Christopher Senior.

If all goes according to plan, the Select Board should vote on a preferred candidate on Monday, Dec. 22. This means, assuming contract negotiations go well, the town could unveil its new town manager sometime in the new year.

When he takes over, this will mark the town's third town manager since 2018, as Lisa Wong served from 2018-2021, followed by Rudolph who served from 2021-2025 (though Rudolph didn't become the permanent town manager until December of 2022, as she first served in an interim role from September of 2021 until December of 2022).

Prior to that, Richard Howard served as town manager for seven years.

For its assistant town manager position, it will open up after Twogood leaves this month. He originally planned on leaving not long after Rudolph, but agreed to stay on to help the intern town manager, Stephen Delaney, through fall Town Meeting and the beginning of the budget cycle.

Going forward, the Select Board will likely lean on the new town manager to find a replacement. One interesting note, and another change the town could see in 2026, involves the addition of a new position in town government. During fall Town Meeting, the Personnel Board, at the request of the Select Board, asked Town Meeting to approve a deputy town manager position. They did.

This means Winchester now has both an assistant town manager position and a deputy town manager position it can fill. The Select Board told Town Meeting they would likely not fill both at the same time. Instead, the board will leave it up to the new town manager as to which position he feels is more appropriate. (A deputy town manager could be seen as someone the town can groom and train to become the next town manager while an assistant town manager would be just that, someone to assist the town manager and step in whenever he's unavailable).

Operating override and new form of Town Meeting

Two of the biggest changes, though, involve a potential operating override and changing how the moderator governs Town Meeting, from Robert's Rules of Order to Town Meeting Time.

In 2019, Winchester successfully passed an override for $10M. Originally, the Select Board wanted a $12M override, but lowered the amount to $10M after listening to voters. Of that, $2M went to the Capital and Building Stabilization funds.

At the time, board members told the public they expected the override to last 2-3 years. Instead, management managed to squeeze out five years. Not long after the override passed, COVID hit and the town had to shrink just about everything (including town elections and Town Meeting). It also received millions from the federal government in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Therefore, it's impossible to know how long the override money would have lasted without the pandemic. Either way, the Select Board discussed the possibility of asking voters to support an operating override every 4-5 years. Once residents get the chance to vote in March (assuming the override question makes it onto the ballot), it will have been seven years since the last one.

As members of the current board pointed out at a recent meeting, some communities ask voters to support an operating override every year. While it doesn't seem like Winchester will go in that direction, there's definitely a possibility the Select Board might ask residents to support more operating overrides in the future.

(This doesn't count overrides passed for the high school or the new Lynch Elementary School, not to mention a possible override for the Muraco Elementary School if the Massachusetts School Building Authority supports funding it.)

Although Winchester did pass the last operating override, with 60 percent voting yes, it's not a slam dunk the town could pass another one. In fact, some communities have never passed an operating override. Stoneham, for instance, hopes to pass one for the first time (the vote takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 9, so results won't be known as of press time for the Middlesex East).

The town did attempt to pass a $14.6M override back in April, but voters rejected it.

Winchester officials will likely not ask for such a high number. While the Select Board hasn't come up with one yet, members said they expect to in the next few weeks (ahead of a January or February special Town Meeting). The town did, though, reconvene its State of the Town Committee this year to dive into the budget and find ways to both save money and raise revenue in an attempt to make any override more palatable.

The final major change, should it happen, involves switching from Robert's Rules of Order to Town Meeting Time to govern Town Meeting. The town has used Robert's Rules of Order since practically forever. However, some Town Meeting members, including the current town moderator, feel it's time for a change.

Locally, other Middlesex East publication towns use both: Tewksbury and Burlington use Town Meeting Time while Reading and Stoneham use Robert's Rules of Order.

In the spring, Town Meeting debated making some updates and changes to the town's general bylaws. One such change involved switching from Robert's Rules of Order to Town Meeting Time to govern Town Meeting. With the body needing more time, and more information, before making any decision, a Town Meeting member moved to send the question to a committee for further evaluation.

That committee, headed up by former Town Moderator Peter Haley, came to Town Meeting this fall and recommended Town Meeting adopt Town Meeting Time. Town Meeting, however, said no so fast. Instead of adopting Town Meeting Time or keeping Robert's Rules of Order, the body elected to, once again, send the question to a committee for further evaluation.

The current town moderator pushed for Town Meeting to make the switch. He said he thought Town Meeting Time would be confusing, but acknowledged it's actually built on Robert's Rules. He called it readable and accessible for everyone, adding how it only included a handful of changes as compared to Robert's Rules.

The biggest difference between the two, he said, involved the motion to reconsider; however, the moderator said that doesn't apply to Winchester due to its own bylaw, which supersedes everything. In fact, none of what makes Winchester's Town Meeting unique would change, according to the town moderator. This includes it being a representative Town Meeting (and not one open to any resident), meeting twice a year, needing 100 members for a quorum, not allowing any appropriations in the spring prior to May 1, having a Yellow Sheet presented by the Finance Committee (that deals with the budget), using both electronic and voice voting, and having meetings broadcast on WinCAM.

The town moderator then listed a flaw with Robert's Rules: all warrant articles must be resolved; if not, they are viewed as unfavorable. He added how Robert's Rules are not specific to New England and "not good for us."

"Town Meeting is the purest form of self-government," the moderator argued, "and Town Meeting Time levels the playing field for every member of Town Meeting."

Town Meeting, hesitant to pull the trigger, once again moved to refer the article to a study committee. This one would include five members tasked with addressing unresolved procedures. They would report back to spring Town Meeting with their findings.

The committee will include the current town moderator and a former town moderator (Heather von Mering, as the

• WINCHESTER TO B2

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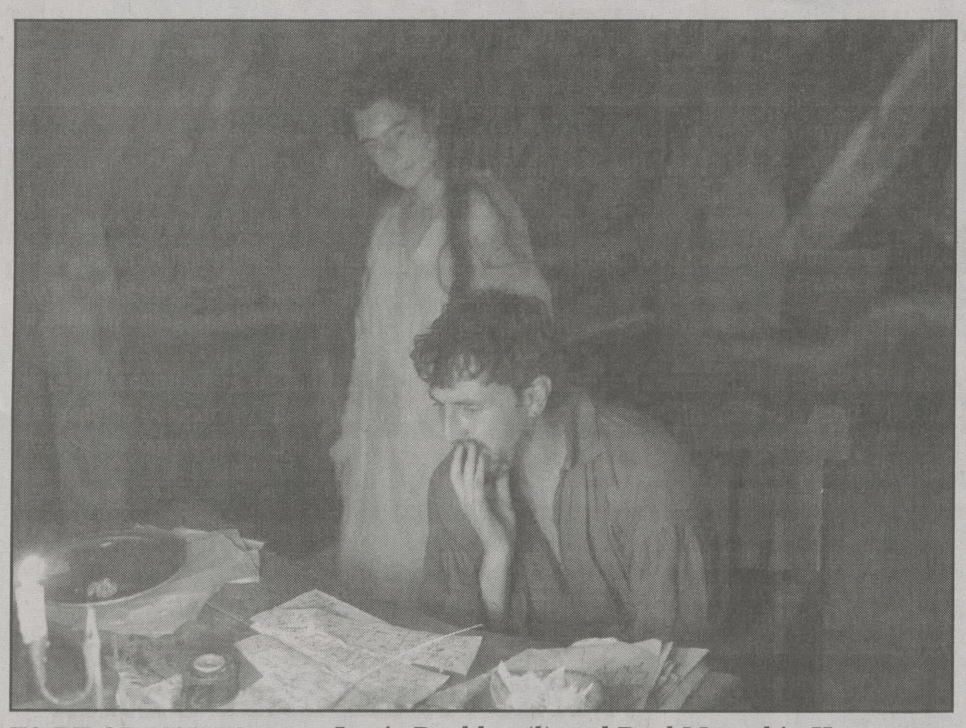


TO BE OR NOT TO BE - Jessie Buckley (l) and Paul Mescal in Hamnet. (Courtesy of Focus Features)

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Jessie Buckley startles and shimmers in 'Hamnet,' a meditation on love, loss and art

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

"Tell me a story," the earthy young woman asks the shy Latin tutor early in Chloé Zhao's "Hamnet." What story, he asks? "Something that moves you."

She's made a shrewd choice of storyteller. This awkward young man seems to have a way with words as he recounts the tragic myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. As well he should: One day he'll be known as the finest wordsmith in the world.

But Agnes, though being wooed by William Shakespeare himself, doesn't have the same relationship with words, nor need for them. Unlike her bookish suitor, her mystical nature — some say her mother was a forest witch! — and appetite for life lend her ready access to a seemingly volcanic array of emotions, from giddy joy to unfathomable grief, all at the tips of her earth-soiled fingers.

And volcanic is the best way to describe Jessie Buckley's startling performance in "Hamnet," Zhao's unabashedly emotional adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's acclaimed novel. Also starring a magnetic Paul Mescal as Will, it's a story that imagines the early life of the young couple from Stratford. And as O'Farrell's readers know, it centers on a life-altering loss: the death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet.

You may have heard that early viewings of the film left swaths of the audience in tears. Spoiler alert: This is no surprise. Zhao, co-writing with O'Farrell, goes straight for the tear ducts, with crucial help from a superb cast led by Buckley — who, like her character, seems to have an extraordinary ability to dispense with artifice and access a wildness simmering beneath the surface. We'd tell you to watch her face during the riveting conclusion, where she's part of a large crowd. But really, your eyes won't go anywhere else.

So we begin with a heady love story, soon to be tested. "Love doesn't die, it transforms," Zhao has said. Her first task is to show how even the sturdiest love can be transformed by grief.

But of course, there's another act. In "Hamnet," love is transformed by grief and then transformed again, by art. Which art, you ask? Well, that's obvious from the title. The play's the thing.

Speaking of "Hamlet," a crucial fact is laid out at the very start: In 16th-century England, the names "Hamnet" and "Hamlet" were interchangeable.

Scholars also know that Shakespeare and his wife, Anne Hathaway (also called Agnes), indeed had a son named Hamnet who died at 11. Little else is known, including how he died or what — if any — connection there was to the creation, a few years later, of what many call the greatest play in the English language. A play, it bears noting, about untimely death and grief.

Author O'Farrell, of course, imagines a deep connection. The movie stays largely faithful to her book but changes its structure, moving chronologically rather than toggling between time periods.

It starts with a vision of Agnes, curled in a tree hollow as if born there. No wonder Will is enchanted as he looks out his classroom window and spies this free spirit, whose chief companion is a hawk. He figures she's a maid; actually, she's the eldest daughter of the house where he's tutoring to fulfill family debts. Their connection is electric. Soon, she's pregnant.

Agnes will birth their first child, a daughter, alone in nature, clinging to tree branches. (Cinematographer Łukasz Żal makes especially deft use of light and lush foliage). A few years later, when she gives birth again, Will's stern mother (Emily Watson) insists she stay inside. She delivers twins — a boy, then a girl who at first seems stillborn, but is revived by mother's touch.

Still, Agnes is terrified, because she's had a vision of two children — not three — at her deathbed. Meanwhile, Will is spending much time in London, pursuing business opportunities and, then, his theater ambitions. Agnes herself encouraged the move. But that changes when Hamnet (Jacobi Jupe, nobly endearing), who promised his father he'd look after everyone, takes ill.

When he succumbs, Agnes falls into inconsolable grief. And when a devastated Will comes home, she matter-of-factly explains how, no, he has actually no idea what it was like. "You weren't here," she says coldly. If he had been, he could have said goodbye.

But soon Will must leave again. He's working on a play. We see early rehearsals of "The Tragedie of Hamlet," and at one point Mescal — frustrated with his players — shows his Shakespearean chops with an angry rendition of the "Get thee to a nunnery!" speech. (Side note: If all this leads to Mescal playing Hamlet someday in a theater somewhere, we're here for it.)

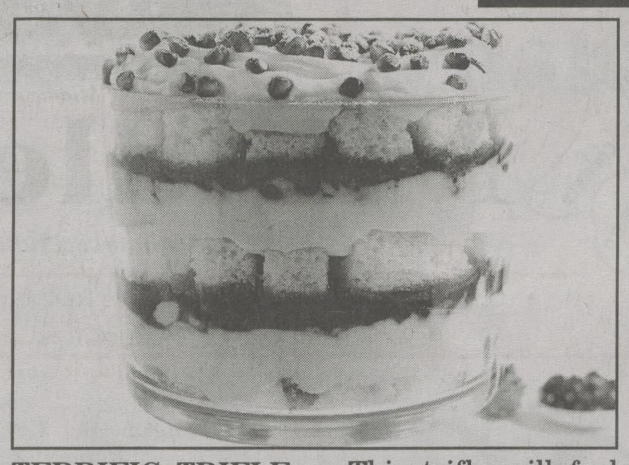
The mastery of these words, and their delivery, contrast starkly with Agnes' most impactful scenes, which often occur with few or no words at all. We've already alluded to the walloping conclusion, where love, grief and art all converge in the film's most powerful moment. To watch Buckley here is to appreciate that even in a story about Shakespeare, it can be the gaps between words that resonate profoundly.

So, yes, watch Agnes' face as she listens. The famous words coming from the stage are only part of the equation. The rest — OK, we'll say it — is silence.

"Hamnet," a Focus Features release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association "for thematic content, some strong sexuality, and partial nudity." Running time: 125 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

Winter Eggnog Trifle



TERRIFIC TRIFLE - This trifle will fool everyone into thinking it took hours to make. Layers of eggnog cake, eggnog pudding and tart cranberry sauce give this dessert a pretty presentation and incredible holiday taste.

INGREDIENTS:

Cake:
- 1 box Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ White Cake Mix
- 1 1/4 cups eggnog
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 egg whites

Cranberry Sauce:
- 4 cups fresh or frozen whole cranberries
- 1 1/3 cups water
- 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar

Pudding:
- 2 boxes (6-serving size each) vanilla instant pudding and pie filling mix
- 3 cups eggnog
- 3 cups milk

Toppings:
- 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup pomegranate arils
- Powdered sugar for sprinkling

STEPS

Step 1: Heat oven to 350° F. Grease 13x9-inch pan; line with cooking parchment paper.

Step 2: In large bowl, beat Cake ingredients with electric mixer on medium speed about 2 minutes or until well combined. Spread in pan; bake about 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Place pan on cooling rack to cool completely. While cake bakes and cools, make Cranberry Sauce and Pudding.

Step 3: In 2-quart saucepan, heat Cranberry Sauce ingredients to boiling over medium-high heat. Reduce to simmer; cook 5 to 10 minutes or until berries have burst and sauce begins to thicken. Pour sauce into wider bowl to cool. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Step 4: In large bowl, beat Pudding ingredients with whisk until combined. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Step 5: Cut completely cooled cake into cubes. Just before assembling trifle, in medium bowl, beat whipping cream and 1 tablespoon powdered sugar with electric mixer on high speed to stiff peaks.

Step 6: In trifle bowl, layer cake cubes, pudding mixture and cranberry sauce; repeat. Top with whipped cream and a generous sprinkling of pomegranate arils. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

EXPERT TIP

You can assemble this trifle early in the day or even the night before; cover and refrigerate until serving. Or the components for the trifle can be prepared a day or two in advance and assembled the day of.

• WINCHESTER FROM B1

only other living former town moderator, Peter Haley, is unavailable), one member from the previous study committee, one member from the Committee on Government Regulations, and one member from the Rules Committee.

When asked if the town would need to pass new bylaws if it switched to Town Meeting Time, Town Council Jay Talerman said no.

"There are no gaps between the way we would do business in the spring and now," he noted.

Select Board member Bill McGonigle, speaking for himself as his board did not take a position on the article, supported the motion to form another committee, saying the town still had work to do. He said Haley, the chair of the study committee, said bylaw amendments would be needed. He argued the best way to proceed involved bringing Town Meeting Time to spring Town Meeting with amendments.

"Gaps still exist," McGonigle argued, "and you can't run Town Meeting with vagaries. I'm fervently in support (of the motion to refer it to a special committee)."

With so much discussion about potential bylaw changes, Town Clerk MaryEllen Marshall said she didn't see any bylaw that would absolutely need to be passed.

"I don't see a reason to hold it up," she added, referring to a potential switch.

Once the article returns this spring, Town Meeting should take a vote on it. It's unclear how the body will vote, as most of the discussion in the fall centered on whether or not to convene another study committee and not on the article itself.

Should a second study committee support switching, then it seems likely Town Meeting would move in that direction. Should the committee vote against a switch, however, then Town Meeting could go in any direction.

The original study committee, when they gave a report, said Town Meeting Time doesn't propose to change or reorient the way Town Meeting works. They also said it was written by lawyers and councilors and provides a narrative explanation. The Committee called it more understandable.

Haley, chair of the Committee, referred to Town Meeting Time as "superior" to Robert's Rules, but admitted it would require the town adopt some supplementary bylaws. In the end, he called it "more usable."

With so much up in the air, 2026 should be a very interesting year in Winchester.

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Middlesex East Publications, in association with the Salvation Army will sponsor "M.E. Santa" this holiday season to benefit needy individuals and families in the area. In many past years, the Salvation Army has worked quietly within the communities. But this year it is asking for assistance due to increased pressure to provide services. Funds will be distributed locally in the M.E. communities which include:Wilmington, Tewksbury, No. Reading, Lynnfield, Reading, Stoneham, Burlington, Woburn, Wakefield and Winchester.

A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

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• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

40 Crystal Cir was sold to Michael P Ganley and Amanda Ganley by Edward P Lyvers for $760,000 on 11/13/25

4 Dartmouth Rd was sold to Huijie Gao by Samuel R Bradford for $861,000 on 11/14/25

14 Saint Marys Rd was sold to Leonard Shollo and Ina Shollo by Kristen L Fiato for $1,175,000 on 11/14/25

LYNNFIELD

85 Beaver Ave was sold to Alyssa Bradford and Samuel Bradford by Zepaj Development LLC for $1,699,900 on 11/17/25

95 Beaver Ave was sold to Richard A Johnson and Gabrielle P Silvonic by Vincent D Tibbetts Jr for $650,000 on 11/14/25

64 Forest Hill Ave was sold to Anthony Lamattina and Joanna Lamattina by Jean M Andrews for $836,000 on 11/14/25

35 Grey Ln was sold to Steen M Grasso and Ryan C Grasso by Grey Ln Nt and John F Wisentaner for $1,350,000 on 11/13/25

973 Main St was sold to Oswald B Gooden 3rd and Priscilla Gooden by Edgard Meneguello for $1,545,000 on 11/14/25

14 Rockwood Rd was sold to Cole D Giles and Marissa E Murray by Jennifer M Muniz and Paul M Muniz for $635,000 on 11/14/25

7 Yorkshire Dr was sold to Aleksandr Tatarynau by Sheila E Trafton for $1,055,000 on 11/13/25

NORTH READING

7 Greenbriar Dr #202 was sold to Allison Pregent by Castelmar Properties LLC for $350,000 on 11/13/25

320 Martins Lndg #304 was sold to Jaffe Ft and Alexander Jaffe by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $492,120 on 11/14/25

320 Martins Lndg #2408 was sold to Gerardo L Pis-Lopez and Mary E Pis-Lopez by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $689,999 on 11/13/25

READING

483 Franklin St was sold to Trinity Hom Builders LLC by B & P Rt and Bryan J Irwin for $1,540,000 on 11/17/25

144 Johnson Woods Dr #144 was sold to David J Oconnor and Patrice D Oconnor by Soyoung Lee and Choong H Lee for $1,025,000 on 11/14/25

75 Johnson Woods Dr #75 was sold to Sneha K Kulkarni and Rahul N Daga by Samuel E Morgan and Carey A Morgan for $1,430,000 on 11/14/25

368 Pearl St was sold to M2 Ventures LLC by One Saxonville LLC for $655,000 on 11/14/25

368 Pearl St was sold to One Saxonville LLC by Harold E Seaward Est and Catherine R Goddard for $550,000 on 11/14/25

STONEHAM

40 Bonad Rd was sold to Justin Mills and Meghan Fawcett by Robert F Hayman and Elizabeth J Safford for $714,000 on 11/14/25

32 Dapper Darby Dr was sold to Mason B Gillespie and Meghan S Gillespie by Michael P Sorabella RET and Michael P Sorabella for $1,350,000 on 11/17/25

36 Forest St was sold to Natalie Singer and Samuel Blomberg by Matthew Burns and Kayla Burns for $784,000 on 11/13/25

207 Park St was sold to Ming Zheng and Yutong Zhang by Thomas Graffeo and Olga Vershinina for $733,000 on 11/14/25

222 Park St was sold to James V Castellano by Harold F Lesage for $515,000 on 11/14/25

18 Summerhill St was sold to Nathaniel J Palermo and Catherine R Sudano by Patricia Mcgah and Kevin Wynne for $625,000 on 11/13/25

24 Sunrise Ave was sold to Cady Ft and Robert B Cady by Patrick A Catino Est and Lorraine Murray-Catino for $785,000 on 11/14/25

52 Washington St was sold to Zhen Hu by Elben D Guimaraes and Erica Guimaraes for $802,000 on 11/14/25

TEWKSBURY

109 Apache Way #109 was sold to Bejamin O Adeyinka by James M Caruso for $460,000 on 11/17/25

1 Lincoln Rd was sold to Paloma F Standley and Thomas W Standley by Ajm Construction LLC for $1,150,000 on 11/17/25

2345 Main St was sold to 2345 Main Street LLC by Td Bank for $1,000,000 on 11/17/25

51 Nolan Ct #51 was sold to Kamran Saeed by Daniel Rockett for $258,241 on 11/17/25

100 Pleasant St #14 was sold to Maria D Costa by Robert Cusato Jr for $455,000 on 11/13/25

Vale St was sold to A & M Land Corp by Ca Int and Yvon Cormier for $350,000 on 11/17/25

WAKEFIELD

7 Essex St was sold to Mary Gill and Luke Manzone by Lorraine A Mcclellan Est and Scott A Mcclellan for $690,000 on 11/13/25

138 Prospect St was sold to Christopher Trabucco by Joshua K Goldberg and Mariah A Goldberg for $1,155,000 on 11/14/25

198 Salem St was sold to Edgard Meneguello and Janaina N Meneguello by 198 Salem LLC for $1,790,000 on 11/14/25

10 Spring Ave was sold to Michael Graham by Cynthia A Graham for $496,348 on 11/17/25

17 Spring St was sold to Fernando Dolence by Charles Ciccone and Jaclyn Ciccone for $679,000 on 11/13/25

58 Spring St was sold to Jaclyn Ciccone and Charles Ciccone by Quin Christensen and Allyse Knox for $875,000 on 11/14/25

234 Water St #202 was sold to Michael J Parrillo by Elizabeth J Dimodica and Stephanie M Dimodica for $415,000 on 11/14/25

46 Yale Ave was sold to Julia Sannella and Marco Sannella by 46 Yale Avenue T and Claudia J Diotalevi for $950,000 on 11/14/25

WILMINGTON

11 Cedarcrest Rd was sold to Megan Ronaghan by Merry Ft and Steven E Merry for $505,000 on 11/13/25

100 West St was sold to Wilmington Developers LLC by Sf Land Development Corp for $6,250,000 on 11/14/25

102 West St was sold to Wilmington Developers LLC by Sf Land Development Corp for $6,250,000 on 11/14/25

104 West St was sold to Wilmington Developers LLC by Sf Land Development Corp for $6,250,000 on 11/14/25

WINCHESTER

40 Amberwood Dr was sold to David A Consiglio and Juliane A Sousa by Eric Limont for $2,795,000 on 11/17/25

7 Conant Rd #20 was sold to Marie A Lovetere by Richard L Corrigan Est and Patricia Leclair for $665,000 on 11/14/25

35 Harvard St was sold to Nathan P Mackenzie and Kenzie H Chin by Lauren L Danaher Lt and Lauren L Danaher for $1,250,000 on 11/14/25

89 Main St was sold to Christopher K Post and Maria L Post by Kristin Kelley for $1,150,000 on 11/14/25

382 S Border Rd was sold to Jongtae Lee and Hyejin Jeon by Cjm Builders Inc for $2,450,000 on 11/17/25

200 Swanton St #T11 was sold to Derrick Benson by Anthony J Mcdonald and Kaitlyn J Mcdonald for $397,000 on 11/14/25

10 Winchester Pl #301 was sold to Mary W Siciliano by Jean D Donahue Qprt and Anne R Newman for $1,225,000 on 11/14/25

WOBURN

27 Blueberry Hill Rd was sold to Wendy Cai and Jerry Z Yang by Daniel I Greer and Melissa A Greer for $885,000 on 11/17/25

20 Franklin St was sold to 20 Franklin Rt and Kevin J Chiles by Patrick J Coleman for $425,000 on 11/17/25

92 Garfield Ave was sold to First Landing Invs LLC by Barry Bane and Carlene L Bane for $570,000 on 11/17/25

92 Garfield Ave was sold to Ira Du LLC by First Landing Invs LLC for $621,891 on 11/17/25

14 Harvard St Ext was sold to Yongjie Zhu by Craig Cullen and Traci Cullen for $779,999 on 11/17/25

8 Janis Ter was sold to Stephen Leveroni and Ashley G Leveroni by James R Rennie Jr and Gail M Rennie for $730,000 on 11/14/25

15 Lakeview Ter was sold to Megan L Cesvette by Edward J Haggerty for $775,000 on 11/13/25

15 Mishawum Rd was sold to Jason Rayles and Leah Giberson by Andrew E Hackett and Kimberly Hackett for $1,125,000 on 11/14/25

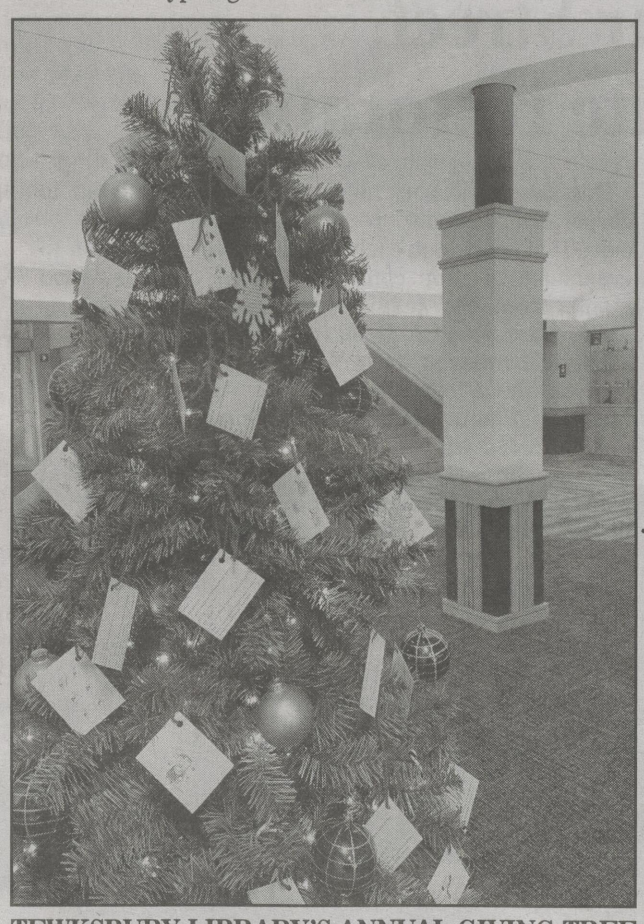
30 Samoset Rd was sold to Michael D Scippa by Cheryl A Hulin and Martin J Hulin for $960,000 on 11/17/25

17 Sunnyside Rd was sold to Nahee Kim and Dinesh Ramaswamy by Kenneth Tse and Angela Tse for $731,000 on 11/17/25

The Tewksbury Public Library Giving Tree returns for season

The annual Giving Tree to benefit the Tewksbury Hospital is up in the Tewksbury Public Library's lobby and ready for you to grab a tag! Each tag on the tree is detailed with exactly what item the person wants, including sizes if necessary.

Please sign out your chosen tag at the Front Desk and return your wrapped gift with the tag taped to the outside of it by Sunday, December 14th at 5pm. The Tewksbury Hospital and TPL appreciate your generosity during this season. Tewksbury Public Library | 978-640-4490 | 300 Chandler Street | www.tewksburypl.org.



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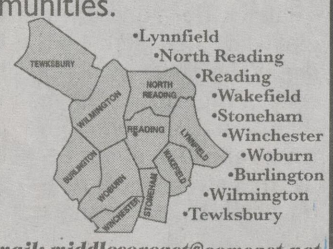

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RMLD

LEGAL NOTICE

IFB 2025-31

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30, § 39M, the Reading Municipal Light Department (or "RMLD") intends to contract for and extends an invitation to submit sealed bids for:

Hourly Rates for Professional Manpower, Vehicles, Trade Tools, and Equipment for Underground Electrical Distribution Construction and Maintenance, on an as-needed basis.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to the Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867, ATTN: Purchasing Department, no later than **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.** Bids will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV Room. Bids received after the time of announced deadline will not be accepted.

Bid documents may be obtained via email request to Maureen Sullivan, Materials Manager, at msullivan@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Maureen Sullivan at 781-942-6441. Note: This is a Prevailing Wage project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the RMLD for a sum not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid, unless otherwise stated. The bid bond must be from a corporate surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conditioned that the bidder will pay the RMLD, as liquidated damages, the amount specified in the bond unless the bidder enters into a contract in accordance with his bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract or furnish any required bonds, insurance documents, or other required documents within ten (10) days from the date on which the bidder is notified that the bid has been accepted, the amount of the check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the RMLD.

The RMLD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, including and without limitation the right to reject any or all non-responsive, unbalanced or conditional bids, and to reject any bid if the RMLD believes that it would not be in the best interest of the RMLD to make the award to that bidder. RMLD also reserves the right to waive any minor informalities not involving price, time or changes to the work.

Bids shall remain valid and binding for sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, following the submission deadline. No agreement shall be valid or binding unless duly executed by RMLD or RMLD issues a purchase order signed by an authorized representative of the RMLD.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process bids promptly. However, RMLD will not be liable for any delays in acting on a bid.

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE
All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website.
To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:
www.homenewshere.com or
http://masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

RMLD

LEGAL NOTICE

IFP 2025-21

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 56D, the Reading Municipal Light Department (or "RMLD") seeks proposals for the purchase of the following:

ONE (1) 65' DIGGER DERRICK TRUCK WITH TRADE-IN

Sealed proposals shall be submitted to the Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867, ATTN: Purchasing Department, no later than **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.** Proposals will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV Room. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Proposal documents may be obtained via email request to Barbara Mulvey at bmulvey@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Barbara Mulvey at 781-942-6430. RMLD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive deviations and informalities, modify specifications, negotiate price and contract terms, purchase items from multiple vendors, accept any proposal, and otherwise award the contract as

RMLD deems to be in its best interest, as determined by RMLD in its sole discretion. RMLD also reserves the right to purchase the equipment from a statewide contract or other procurement options authorized by G.L. c. 30B.

Proposals shall remain valid and binding for sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, following the submission deadline. No agreement shall be valid or binding unless duly executed by RMLD or RMLD issues a purchase order signed by an authorized representative of the RMLD.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process proposals promptly. However, RMLD shall not be liable for any delays in acting on a proposal.

RMLD

LEGAL NOTICE

IFP 2025-29

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 56D, the Reading Municipal Light Department (or "RMLD") seeks proposals for the purchase of the following:

ONE (1) 50' DIGGER DERRICK TRUCK WITH TRADE-IN

Sealed proposals shall be submitted to the Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867, ATTN: Purchasing Department, no later than **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026**. Proposals will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV Room. *Late proposals will not be accepted.*

Proposal documents may be obtained via email request to Barbara Mulvey at bmulvey@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Barbara Mulvey at 781-942-6430.

RMLD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive deviations and informalities, modify specifications, negotiate price and contract terms, purchase items from multiple vendors, accept any proposal, and otherwise award the contract as RMLD deems to be in its best interest, as determined by RMLD in its sole discretion. RMLD also reserves the right to purchase the equipment from a statewide contract or other procurement options authorized by G.L. c. 30B.

Proposals shall remain valid and binding for sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, following the submission deadline. No agreement shall be valid or binding unless duly executed by RMLD or RMLD issues a purchase order signed by an authorized representative of the RMLD.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process proposals promptly. However, RMLD shall not be liable for any delays in acting on a proposal.

Tewksbury Police Log

Male party arrested on warrant for drug possession

Monday, December 1

9:18 a.m. - Caller reported a blue Subaru driving erratically and she had to pull over to let driver go past her at Andover Street and Trull Road. Caller was no longer in the area and did not want to speak to an officer. Police sent and reported gone on arrival.

10:06 a.m. - Police were flagged down by male at Northeast Christian Church. A male was urinating on their property. The police cleared the area and spoke to the male.

12:04 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a former employee was attempting to break into the garage at Residences at Tewksbury Commons. Police sent. They spoke to all parties and no burglary occurred.

9:32 p.m. - Caller reported she received a threatening phone call at Ellington Road. Police sent. They reported wrong number and no specific threats.

Tuesday, December 2

10:23 a.m. - Passerby reported a water bottle with needles in it at South Street. Caller stated the bottle was across the street in front of the fire hydrant. Police sent. They had the items and would dispose it.

2:06 p.m. - Caller stated person was going through the dumpster at Atamian Honda. Party was no longer there. The party did not take anything from the dumpster. Caller was given a notice of trespass to serve on his own but declined.

3:31 p.m. - Caller reported two vehicles doing donuts on the parking lot of Pushcart Cafe. Police sent. They spoke to an individual and he stated his fiends had taken off. He would be cleared, as well.

Wednesday, December 3

10:39 a.m. - Caller reported a possible burglary of his snow shovel at Saunders Circle. Caller had video footage. Police sent. They spoke with the caller and attempted making contact with attacked male party. No answer at male party's residence or situation. Police checked back in later.

8:05 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle doing donuts in the parking lot by the old Kmart at Stadium Plaza. Police sent and checked the area, but they were gone on arrival.

Thursday, December 4

6:33 a.m. - Passerby reported speed sign down near the North Street School. Caller stated sign mostly on sidewalk but partially in roadway. Police sent. All units cleared. Area cleared.

10:55 a.m. - Caller reported a loose dog at Chucks Tree Service wondering around. Caller was requested animal control. Tan doodle, medium sized dog. Animal Control notified. They requested an officer to send first. Officers were tied up. Animal Control notified and no further calls came in.

11:04 a.m. - Caller reported a male was in a vehicle using drugs on Ames Hill Drive, possibly shooting up. Caller who was not at the location reporting male appeared unresponsive but threatening. Male reported in front of building in a black vehicle with out of state plates. Police and ambulance sent. Officer filed a report.

1:36 p.m. - White mini van traveling at a high rate of speed headed toward Andover at Main Street. Andover and state police Department were notified.

2:57 p.m. - Caller reported a motor vehicle driver erratically almost caused a crash at Sooner Lube. Police sent but they were gone on arrival.

3:35 p.m. - Caller reported a motor vehicle tailgated another vehicle drove at a high rate of speed near the police headquarters. Police sent. Vehicle continued north on Route 38 out of sight from the caller. Lowell and state police notified.

Friday, December 5

12:21 am - A 911 caller reported someone trying to get into his vehicle at P.G. Painting no longer in the area. Caller just heard alarm and couldn't see anybody. Caller did not want to speak with an officer. Police sent. They advised that hey could not locate the suspect.

1:34 a.m. - Police out with a motor vehicle at Motel 6. John Dubey, 48, of 34 Poplar St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with a warranty for assault and battery with dangerous weapons and possession class B cocaine drugs.

9:32 a.m. - Caller reported around 7 p.m. last night someone was going to every door around the house and rang the doorbell at William G Drive. Every time person saw the camera, they would look away. Police sent and officer spoke to party.

8:30 p.m. - A 911 Uber driver reported someone was following them into the gas station and was beeping and flashing lights at the Uber at Mobil Tewksbury. Vehicle was now leaving the gas station going toward Lowell. Caller reported the female operator attempted to speak with his male passenger who did not wish to exit the vehicle and spoke with her. Police sent. Charles Murphy, 45, of 182 Pleasant St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with a warrant for OUI drugs.

Saturday, December 6

5:45 a.m. - Police checked on a motor vehicle at Coolidge Street, reporting unoccupied and trunk and door open. They reportedly made contact with the reporting officer and this was an oversight.

4:15 p.m. - Manager from Market Basket north stated two males asking people for money outside and would like them moved along. White male wearing a pink hoodie, army pants, and a white male with no clothing description. Police sent. Units cleared. Manager not looking to no trespass, just wanted the parties to be moving along.

Sunday, December 7

9:12 a.m. - Monitoring company called in white box truck, loading tires into the back of vehicle on the side closest to Clark Road. Police sent. Owner was contacted about the situation and confirmed no vehicles should be on the property. Officer spoke to the owner about putting up trespass signs on the property and there was not any.

10:05 a.m. - Caller would like to speak to an officer regarding a no trespass order at Berkley Street. Police sent and officer filed a report. Nobody was trespassing. Officer stated the husband's friend was there and was unwanted.

Wilmington Police Log

Wilmington police issue several summonses for various motor vehicle violations

Friday, Nov. 28:

9:22 a.m.: A walk-in party from Benson Road reported that her sister was involved in an ongoing scam.

1:35 p.m.: A caller from Nassau Avenue reported that their next-door neighbor had damaged their fence. Police were unable to speak with the neighbor, and were to call later.

Saturday, Nov. 29:

2:41 a.m.: Keegan James Gray of 11 Carter Lane, in Wilmington, was issued a summons for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and a motor vehicle lights violation. This followed a stop of his white 2021 Ram 1500 on Shawsheen Avenue.

9:34 a.m.: Alex Khalid Antoine of 35 Lincoln St., Apt. #2016, in Reading, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, not having a valid inspection sticker, and failure to wear a seat belt. This followed a stop of his blue 2003 Dodge Durango on Main Street.

12:46 p.m.: A brown 2020 Chevy Trax and a white 2018 Lexus RX were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Middlesex Avenue. Airbags were deployed.

Sunday, Nov. 30:

2:49 a.m.: Kairee Delorme Voltaire of 520 Main St., Apt. #601, in Malden, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and a motor vehicle lights violation. This followed a stop of her gray 2010 Toyota Corolla near Sonny's Mobile on the Run on Lowell Street.

7:11 p.m.: A caller on Beech Street reported that there was an "erratic kid" in his car that was refusing to leave. Police took the passenger to his home on Butters Row.

Monday, Dec. 1:

11:36 a.m.: Nicholas Andrew McDonald of 99 Chatham St., in Lynn, was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This followed his involvement in an accident between a black 2018 Nissan Rogue and a black 2020 Taotao Moped on Concord Street that resulted in injuries.

Tuesday, Dec. 2:

7:03 p.m.: Lorraine M Sullivan of 1417 Ames Hill Dr., in Tewksbury, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and a 1st offense of using an electronic device while driving. This followed a stop of her black 2007 Acura TL near the Library on Middlesex Avenue.

Wednesday, Dec. 3:

7:38 a.m.: A gray 2018 Subaru Crosstrek and a white 2024 Honda Accord were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the Harnden Tavern on Salem Street. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported.

3:41 p.m.: An employee at the Milestone Group Home on High Street reported that a minor had walked away from the program and was attempting to go to the nearby train station, and that they were currently on Waltham Street near the Planet Fitness.

6:08 p.m.: A black 2018 Hyundai Tucson and a gray 2018 Toyota Rav4 were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the Iron Clad Martial Arts Center on Main Street. Airbags were deployed, and three people refused medical attention.

Thursday, Dec. 4:

2:52 a.m.: Police received a report of a man with a flashlight in the area of Jimmy's Garage on Main Street. Police spoke with the man, who stated that he was at the business earlier, that he had left his wallet on his hood, and was looking for the items from it. The man was able to find his license, but not his credit cards.

8:28 a.m.: A caller reported that her gray 2021 Mercedes CLA was hit by a white 2026 BMW x5 xDrive40 while parked at the Starbucks on Lowell Street. Insurance information was exchanged.

2:26 p.m.: Francis Donald Gayton of 13 Darling St., in Marblehead, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to stop/yield. This followed his involvement in a motor vehicle between a black 2009 Saturn Vue and a gray 2021 Nissan Rogue on Concord Street.

Town shares updated plans for Poplar Street, Mollie Drive site restoration

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Community Development Department will host a follow-up meeting to share updated design plans for the upcoming restoration work at the former Poplar Street Well Fields site and Mollie Drive site. The session will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1009 Main St.

The goal of this session is to provide an update to previously presented plans related to the flood plain, groundwater, and wetland restoration work planned for the Poplar Street and Mollie Drive sites within the Shawsheen River watershed to restore ecological function and solicit feedback.

This plan revision incorporates feedback received at past outreach events and written comments from the public. Folks interested in this event will meet at Town Hall in the First Floor Meeting Room at 5:30 p.m. Staff will walk through the 60% design plans and provide an outline for next steps before opening the room up to questions.

This meeting is open to the public, no registration required. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Conservation Agent Abigail Mahoney at *amahoney@tewksbury-ma.gov* or Town Planner Alexandra Lowder at *alowder@tewksbury-ma.gov*.

Packer, J.Borstell Real Estate launch 'Make a Difference' program

TEWKSBURY — J.Borstell Commercial Real Estate is proud to announce the launch of Eric's "Make A Difference" Program, aligned with the upcoming holidays. It is a charitable initiative through which five percent of all net commissions and fees earned by Eric Packer will be donated to local food pantries across the region.

"Every successful transaction is an opportunity to help someone else," said Eric Packer, Commercial Real Estate Advisor with J.Borstell. "Food insecurity continues to affect families and seniors in the communities we serve and this program is a simple way to make a real difference while doing the work I love."

This Program reflects J.Borstell's long-standing commitment to community involvement and social responsibility. By supporting regional food pantries, the program aims to help provide meals, nourishment, and hope to individuals and families during these challenging times.

Jeffrey Borstell, Principal of J.Borstell Commercial Real Estate, praised the initiative.

"We're proud to support Eric's vision to give back through his professional success. His leadership and compassion align with our company's core values — to build relationships that strengthen both business and community."

Patrick Hermans, Principal of J.Borstell, added, "The Make a Difference Program is more than a donation effort — it's a reflection of our belief that strong local relationships create stronger communities."

Since 1981, J.Borstell Commercial Real Estate has been a family-owned firm focused on development, marketing, and brokerage of commercial, residential, and senior-housing properties throughout Massachusetts and New England.

For more information about the "Make A Difference" Program or to learn how your transaction can help support local families in need, contact Eric Packer at 617-285-6154 or email him at *epacker@JBorstell.com*.

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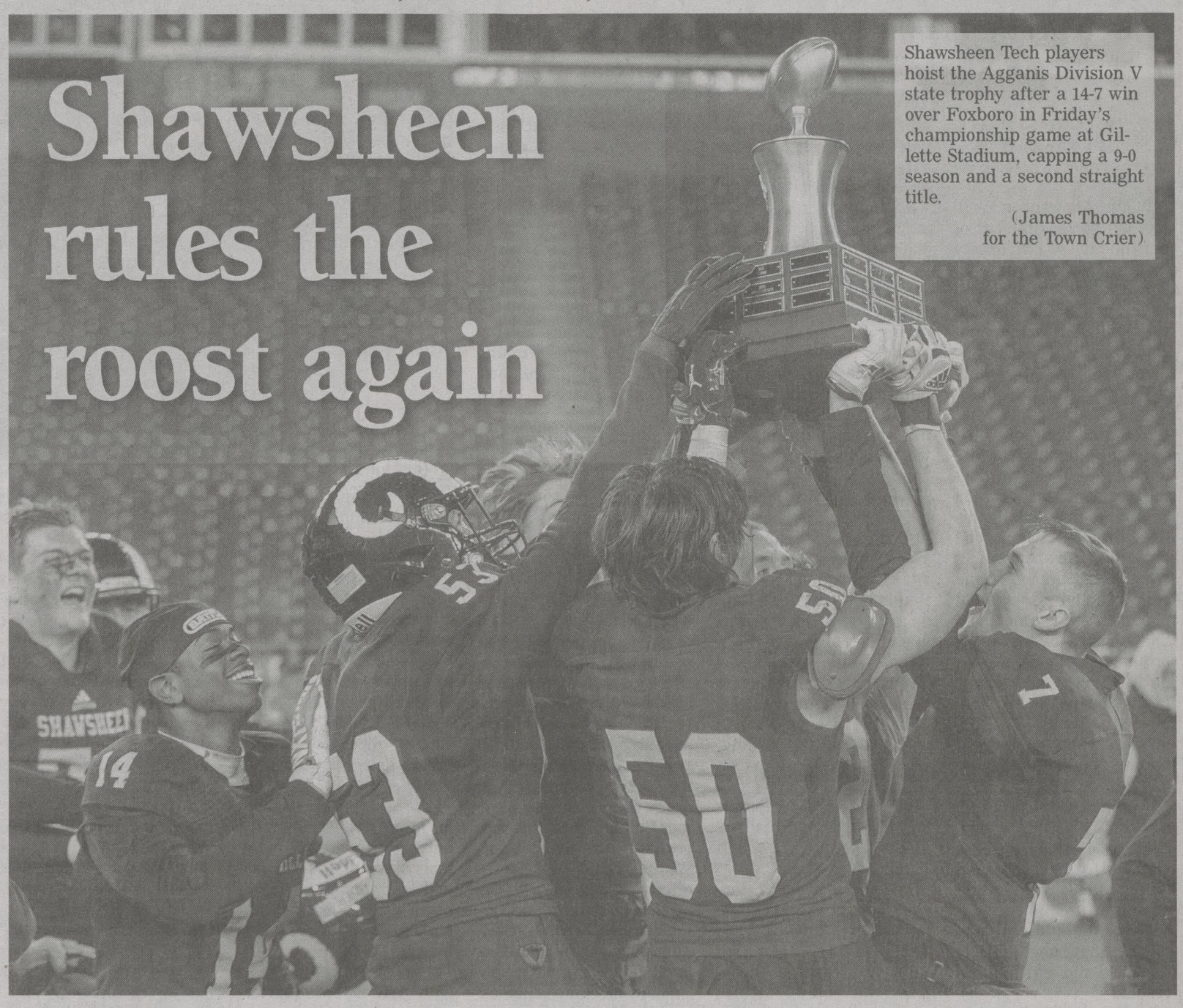
Wilmington SPORTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

Shawsheen rules the roost again



Shawsheen Tech players hoist the Agganis Division V state trophy after a 14-7 win over Foxboro in Friday's championship game at Gillette Stadium, capping a 9-0 season and a second straight title.

(James Thomas for the Town Crier)

Ram football captures second consecutive Div. 5 state championship

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Shawsheen Tech football team did it again.

Last Friday night, the Rams defended their Div. 5 state championship with a 14-7 victory over Foxborough.

A memorable play ended the game for the Rams.

With Shawsheen needing a first down to put the Super Bowl away, Ram senior Jake Banda took a handoff on fourth-and-four from the Warrior 28-yard line.

Banda carried up the middle and pushed his way to four yards and about one-half-inch, giving Shawsheen its first down, its 27th straight victory and its second consecutive state championship.

"To do it back-to-back and to do it with some different people after losing that senior class, that's a tough thing to replace," said Shawsheen coach Al Costabile. "We lost three starting offensive linemen."

Shawsheen scored two touchdowns in the first 9:24 of the game and then hung on behind a defense that got better as the game wore on.

Foxborough's only touchdown was a questionable judgement call by the officiating crew, who ruled Warrior senior Matthew O'Keefe had scored on a fourth-and-one carry from the 1-yard line early in the second quarter.

The replay appeared to tell a different story, to the emphatic, collective groan of the Shawsheen fans in attendance.

It would be the only score allowed by a Ram squad that hung its hat on its defense all season long before the efforts of seniors Nate Malandain and Eric Banda.

Foxborough punted six times and turned the ball over on downs twice, earning four first downs in the first half, two resulting from Ram penalties, and three in the second half, all on its first drive of the third quarter.

The last three Warrior drives totaled minus 16 yards as the Ram pass rush was relentless.

"We had way better conditioning," said Ram senior Dyllon Pratt, a sure-handed receiver and a lockdown defensive back. "We had our wind the whole entire game. You could see it in them, they were dead. Some of their kids took themselves out of the game because they were out of breath. We just kept going and going."

Foxborough punted away its first possession of the night, and the Rams needed exactly one play to take the lead.

With the Shawsheen coaching staff pushing for a quick play, senior quarterback Adam Caruso sent a pass to senior Dyllon Pratt just over the line of scrimmage and Pratt bolted down the left sideline for a 77-yard touchdown reception.

Jake Banda created some space for Pratt with a big block.

"We kind of thought we'd show them something different, something they haven't seen us do," Costabile said of the touchdown play. "If we did that, we would have to capitalize on it quickly before they made adjustments. So to be able to score on that first one, that was huge."

"We had that drawn up all week," said Pratt. "It felt great to score on the first play of the game. I saw the whole, I hit it and I was gone. They weren't catching me."

The extra point hit the upright and missed, but the Rams had a 6-0 lead just 3:42 into the contest.

Foxborough's next drive saw quarterback Cam De Leskey pick up a first down, but the Ram defense tightened.

Senior James Tildsley stopped DeLeskey's rush for a 2-yard loss on second down and sophomore Cristiano Apholz stopped a third-down pass to force a Foxborough punt.

Four plays later, the Rams scored again.

On a fourth-and-one play from its own 49-yard line, Shawsheen ran almost an identical play to its first score as Pratt caught a short pass and dashed 51 yards to the end zone.

"Dyllon is a great football player and a great person in general," said Caruso, also a teammate of Pratt's on the basketball court and the baseball field. "He's one of my best friends."

"I was very proud of the game Dyllon played," Costabile said. "And very proud of Adam Caruso."

Banda pounded in the 2-point conversion and the Rams led 14-0 with 2:37 left in the opening quarter.

Costabile praised Caruso, who took the reigns at quarterback after Sid Tildsley held the spot for the past four years.

"That's big shoes to fill," Costabile said. "That's not an easy thing to do and he really did a great job. He was very steady all year."

Shawsheen's defense came up with another stop on the next Warrior series.

Eric Banda buried senior Ryan Foley for a 1-yard loss, senior Ralph Raymond stopped a second-down pass and Foley dropped a third-down pass when he heard Tildsley's footsteps in front of him.

The Warriors scored with their first drive of the second quarter, moving 65 yards in eight plays before O'Keefe's questionable play at the goal line.

A facemask penalty and a 29-yard run by DeLeskey brought the ball to the Ram 10-yard line before three running plays by Foxborough set up a fourth down from the 2-yard line.

An offside penalty moved the ball to the 1 where Foxborough handed the ball to its big lineman, who was credited with a score on the play.

Both teams had chances to score in what turned out to be a scoreless second half.

▲ Shawsheen Valley Tech's Dyllon Pratt (7) celebrates his first of two touchdowns with teammate Nathan Smith during Friday's Division 5 state championship football game at Gillette Stadium. The Rams won 14-7 to claim back-to-back titles.

(James Thomas for the Town Crier)

Shawsheen opened the third quarter with a drive that started at its own 35-yard and reached the Warrior 20 before the Rams turned the ball over on downs.

A fake punt from the Shawsheen 43-yard line on fourth-and-two that saw sophomore Nathan Smith run for 10 yards started the possession and Banda added a 19-yard run to the Foxborough 26 before the drive stalled.

Foxborough then drove to the Ram 18-yard line before it turned the ball over on downs.

A 22-yard run by DeLeskey started the drive and a 29-yard pass to senior Kawan Dias moved the Warriors to the 17, but that's where the good news ended for the Foxborough offense.

Junior Jack Taft was stopped for no gain on first down, DeLeskey gained two on second down and Tildsley gobbled up DeLeskey's keeper on third down for a 3-yard loss. On fourth-and-11, DeLeskey threw incomplete and the Warriors wouldn't come close to scoring the rest of the way.

Costabile could only smile when asked about Tildsley, the all-state, New England champion wrestler who led Shawsheen in tackles for four straight years.

"James is a warrior, I love him," Costabile said. "He just goes hard to the whistle all of the time."

Foxborough had one last gasp when senior Kolby Hassett recovered a fumble by Banda at the Shawsheen 48-yard with 4:45 to go.

The Warrior drive lasted exactly four plays after an incomplete pass on first down, a booming tackle by Banda on second down and two more missed passes on third and fourth down.

The Rams needed two first downs to put the championship in the books and Banda, who piled up almost 1,900 all-purpose yards, nearly 1,700 of them on the ground, delivered the goods.

Banda picked up 12 yards on first down with 3:40 left and then pushed his way to the next and final first down with 1:59 on the clock.

It's Shawsheen's second straight Super Bowl and the fourth in school history.

"We all dig deep," Pratt said. "We're blue-collar guys and we dig deep in the trenches.

All of the hard work we put in over the summer, it all came together. It feels awesome."

Shawsheen Tech's Dyllon Pratt sprints for a 77-yard touchdown during Friday's Division 5 title game at Gillette Stadium, a 14-7 victory that secured the Rams' second straight state championship.

(James Thomas for The Town Crier)

Bandas help bring championship to Shawsheen

Three brothers and coach were central figures in Super Bowl title for Rams

▲ Shawsheen Tech assistant coach Erick Banda Sr. helped guide the Rams — along with his sons Jake, Eric and Cam — to a 14-7 win in Friday's Division V state championship game at Gillette Stadium. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

As the Shawsheen Tech football team came out of halftime in the Div. 5 state semifinal game against North Reading at Danvers High on Nov. 21, the Ram coaching staff made a decision.

Down 7-0 and struggling to put points on the board, it was time to go to what the Rams figured would be their best chance to win, hand the ball to Wilmington resident Jake Banda behind a line led by his twin brother Eric Banda and enjoy the show.

"We were taking stupid penalties and we were not playing a good game," said Shawsheen's offensive coordinator Doug Pratt. "At halftime we said 'They can't stop us, we're stopping us.' We said 'Guys, let's do what we do best' and we dominated the second half after that."

"We knew what we needed to do," Eric Banda said. "We came out in the second half, were running it up the middle and it worked out for us."

It sure did and everyone on the Shawsheen side of the field did enjoy those results.

Friday, the Rams finished the job, winning the state championship with a 14-7 win over Foxborough.

Jake Banda's performance against North Reading ended up being one of the most memorable from a running back in Shawsheen's program history.

He had 265 yards and three touchdowns and carried the ball 33 times. In overtime, Banda carried all three times on the way to a touchdown and then intercepted the first North Reading overtime play from scrimmage.

Someone could have made a highlight video for No. 42 by just hitting record and stepping aside.

"It's easy to call stuff for him," said Ram offensive coordinator Doug Pratt. "You're not afraid to give him the ball at any point at any time. It's nice to have him back there."

"He's a handful to tackle," said Ram head coach Al Costabile with a chuckle. "He has tremendous balance doesn't he?"

In anticipation of an expanded role this year, Banda hit the weight room with added enthusiasm in the offseason and it was apparent as the season got underway.

"He got very, very strong over one year," said Pratt. "He was strong last year, but man, is he strong this year. The kid is squatting about 440 or something."

"The runs he does, just blow me away," said Eric Banda. "Sometimes a hole will be blown up and he'll still find a way to get around it. He's a great player and a tough kid."

While Jake Banda does most of his damage taking handoffs from senior quarterback Adam Caruso, he found other ways to get the ball this season.

"I even started putting Wildcat in there for him," laughed Pratt of the play when a running back takes a direct snap from center and runs with the ball. "We don't even care if (the other team) knows what we're doing. We're going to block it and he's going to get the yards, it is what it is."

Jake Banda will admit, he would have carried 33 more times in that North Reading if he had to.

"The conditioning that we do at practice prevents me from getting tired, really," said Jake with a laugh. "At that point of the season, the whole season is on the line. It's just a mental thing, you literally can't let yourself get tired."

Had Banda grew up in an era that didn't overlap with former Shawsheen standout quarterback Sid Tildsley, his career numbers would be absolutely staggering.

Make that, more staggering.

Jake's season has been one of the best for a running back in school history, but will be remembered most for his performances when his team needed him most.

Before North Reading, he piled up 210 yards in just 19 carries against St. Mary's of Lynn. In 13 totes against Salem, a 55-14 win, Banda had 119 yards. Banda had three touchdowns in each victory.

That's nine touchdowns and 594 yards rushing in three postseason contests.

For the season, Banda had 1,668 yards rushing, scored 24 touchdowns on 191 carries.

He also had 12 receptions for 187 yards and a score. All-purpose yards 1,875 with 25 touchdowns.

On defense, he had 75 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions.

Last season, Jake had 1,006 yards rushing. On defense, he had 77 tackles and nine sacks at linebacker and added a game-clinching interception in the Super Bowl.

But don't ask Jake Banda to lament about what could have been as far as personal statistics, he'll take three Super Bowl appearances in a four-year stretch over anything else.

"Playing with Sid was amazing," Jake said. "As a team, we were able to win so many games and that's really what it all comes down to. For me, the stats don't really matter. I just want to win every game."

That's what Shawsheen has done, almost completely.

Banda's senior class has gone 49-2 in four years of play and enters Friday with a 25-game winning streak. The Rams currently have a streak of 30 straight home victories and haven't lost a regular-season game in four years.

While Eric Banda doesn't have many personal statistics to point to, his expertise on both sides of the football speak for themselves.

Costabile remembers when Eric Banda agreed to switch positions last season to help the Rams.

"We desperately needed somebody at offensive center that was very knowledgeable about football, very coachable and talented," said Costabile. "And at the time, Eric was playing fullback and the opportunity was given to him. We suggested he move to offensive center and the minute he did that, our offensive line became dominant. He is the quarterback of the offensive line. He calls blocking schemes, he identifies defenses, he knows when to help the guy next to him. We graduated three starting offensive linemen and they all went on to play in college and Eric, along with Nathan Malandain, has taken another group under his wing including a freshman. Eric has the combination of physicality, knowledge of the game and he's vocal, he's a leader. It was an unselfish move and it was what made everything click up front."

"I came to the Tech and said 'I'm going to be a running back,'" Eric said. "My junior year is when Coach C asked me 'How about center?' I said I'd give it a shot and ever since then I fell in love with the position."

Eric started preparing for his new role right away, bulking up, working on the mechanics of the position and embracing his role of being a team leader without a football tucked under his arm.

"This year, coming in with a first-year quarterback, you have to give credit to the line and the receivers," said Pratt. "We put a huge emphasis on getting into the weight room and making sure we could block. We lost a four-year quarterback so we had to be able to run the ball and pick our spots when we were throwing."

Jake Banda doesn't hesitate to praise the efforts of his brother.

"I tell everybody all of the time that he is the best player in the family," Jake said. "He definitely doesn't get the recognition. Everybody sees my stats, but he's actually the one doing the job. He makes my job so much easier, being able to tell the line who to block and where the run is going and diagnosing the different types of defenses. It's made these two years the type of two years that we've had. Him and the offensive line have definitely played a huge factor in the team's success."

The Ram defense over the past two seasons has put up eye-popping numbers too with both Banda seniors roaming around making plays.

Many of the points allowed by Shawsheen in the past two seasons have come with the starters cheering from the sidelines.

Eric's numbers on defense were solid.

After 53 tackles, two fumble recoveries and eight sacks as a junior, Eric contributed 40 tackles and six sacks this season despite teams running the ball away from him throughout the year.

While both Jake and Eric Banda will graduate this season, there will still be a Banda presence on the sideline and the field as sophomore Cam Banda will likely take a more prominent role in the Shawsheen backfield and the father of the three boys, former Wilmington High standout Eric Banda, remains on the team's coaching staff.

It's not just a Band of Brothers, it's a Band of Bandas.

Both Pratt and Costabile admit, Coach Banda has made a big impact on the Rams.

"When he joined our staff a couple of years ago, it was a new voice, a new everything and the kids really responded to him," Pratt said of Coach Banda. "He's no-holds-barred. His speeches before the game and at halftime are incredible. He's been a breath of fresh air on the squad."

"He's done a phenomenal job with making them stronger and I think that

BANDAS | PAGE B7W

◀ Shawsheen Tech's Jake Banda (42) finds daylight for a first down during Friday's Division V title game at Gillette Stadium, part of his 115-yard effort that powered the Rams to a 14-7 win and a second straight championship. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

▼ Shawsheen Tech's Eric Banda celebrates with the Agganis Division V state trophy after the Rams defeated Foxboro 14-7 to repeat as champions Friday at Gillette Stadium. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

Youth Hockey:

Wildcats snap skid against Woburn

By RAYMOND MERCURI
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington Bantam 1 Wildcats traveled to Woburn's O'Brien Rink on Saturday night looking to halt a three-game losing streak, squaring off against a Woburn Tanners team facing the same challenge.

Shorthanded and shorthanded in numbers, Wilmington delivered a 2-1 victory powered by strong goaltending and timely plays.

The Wildcats were without Stella Hardiman and Brayden Warford, skating the night with just two forward lines and three defensemen. Line combinations featured Mathew Riley, Johnny Raposo, and Zach Stroud on the top unit, with Matthew Fogg, Grayson Lynch, and Mason King forming the second line.

Evan Jageler got the start in net.

From the opening faceoff, the game was fast paced and end to end, highlighted by crisp passing and quick transition play. Both goaltenders were outstanding, keeping the scoreboard quiet through a scoreless first period.

Jageler was particularly sharp, turning aside chance after chance and ultimately stopping 27 of 28 shots, several of which were top-notch saves.

The breakthrough came late in the second period.

With 2:59 remaining, Grayson Lynch broke up a Woburn rush at center ice, sending the puck into the offensive zone for a footrace. Lynch won the battle and sent the puck back to Jaydn Onos at the blue line. Onos fired a shot that deflected off a Tanner defender and found its way into the net, giving Wilmington a 1-0 lead.

That score held deep into the third period as Jageler continued to stand tall.

With 4:29 remaining, the Wildcats added an insurance goal. Matthew Fogg disrupted Woburn's breakout near the blue line, and the puck slid along the boards near the bench to Mason King. King drove wide into the offensive zone, drawing the defense with him, while Fogg sprinted down the slot. Staying true to his unselfish style, King delivered a perfectly timed backdoor pass that Fogg buried to make it 2-0.

Woburn answered late when a Wildcats Brendan Cyr's shot in the offensive zone deflected off shin pads and slid down the ice with 2:29 remaining, springing a Tanner left winger on a breakaway. The winger beat Jageler glove side to cut the lead to one, but Wilmington closed out the final minutes to secure the 2-1 win.

The victory snaps Wilmington's losing streak and showcases the team's positive improvement.

The Wildcats return to action Friday night against Lynnfield/Saugus at Hockeytown.

Puck drop is set for 8 p.m.

▲ The Bantam 1 captains are (from left) Evan Jageler (A), Brendan Cyr (C), Matthew Riley (A), and Zachary Stroud (A). (Courtesy photo)

The Dougout:

An early Christmas list for winter sports officials

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The winter season is right around the corner and here is my request to basketball and hockey officials alike.

Please stop.

Stop what?

Stop insisting that team fouls in basketball and team penalties in hockey have to be even, or as close to even as possible.

If you've played these sports, you probably know — it's OK to have it uneven.

The better teams score more points and goals, the lesser teams commit more fouls and penalties trying to stop those better, faster players.

It's just math.

I do understand.

It's not fun listening to coaches consistently remind you of the counts of fouls and penalties and it certainly isn't easy listening to the parents telling you that you stink at your job. The best way to shut everyone up is not to give them a reason to think you favor one team over another.

Equal penalties and fouls mean the refs don't favor anyone.

I get it, kind of.

But what are the chances that teams commit the same amount of infractions, or at least within one or two of each other, in just about every game.

Are turnovers the same?

Timeouts?

Occasionally, I'm guilty of encouraging this stuff when the team I'm rooting for is losing.

I might do a quick glance up to the scoreboard and let a "hey stripes, it's six fouls to two.

Let's even it up a little, huh?"

Most of the time, that's all it takes.

And yes, I'm part of the problem.

If the first four fouls are called against my team and I notice the referees hovering around the scorer's table during a timeout, I'm always happy to know that the next few calls are going my team's way.

It never fails.

I mostly feel bad for the player that gets a foul called on him or her for basically looking funny at the person they're guarding so the officials can get caught up.

My list isn't done for basketball.

PLEASE stop giving three shots or the dreaded "and one" to 3-point shooters for their horrendous acting jobs of falling backwards after shooting a three.

This is a new phenomenon, relatively speaking, but I blame the awful NBA for most of this.

The offensive charging calls are already horrendous to watch, but the 3-pointer fouls are overwhelming.

If you aren't 100 percent clear of what I'm talking about, here's what happens.

A 3-point shooter will line up a shot.

A defender lunges to try and block or at least disrupt the attempt.

When the shooter lands, he or she will fall backwards and slide themselves on their shorts backwards. Sometimes the motion is so fluid that it looks like it's worked on at practice.

Funny how Larry Bird, one of the greatest shooters ever, never happened to sprawl backward after a shot, even if his arm was hit.

Only if a defender puts two hands on a shooter's chest should that shooter fly back like they do.

And if these dangerous fouls are so dangerous, isn't it crazy how they always pull off the safe landing?

And they're never hurt?

I don't know if this Floppy McFloppington makes me as angry as the fact that they actually get these calls.

Hockey isn't as bad, but officials working hard to the penalties even gets just as annoying.

Hopefully, this epidemic doesn't spread to other sports.

If football does it, I haven't noticed.

Luckily baseball doesn't have penalties, but imagine if baseball tried to do something like this?

Maybe called third strikes?

Errors?

I plan to go to the Burlington Mall in a few days and I'm asking Santa for some help with these requests.

I better take my time when approaching him.

I don't want to get called for charging.

Band of Bandas: Wilmington family helps Shawsheen win Super Bowl

BANDAS FROM PAGE B6W

shows up in the fourth quarter a lot," Costabile said of Coach Banda, the team's strength and conditioning coach. "He's a real student of it. He's just always staying up on things and he did a great job with it."

Sophomore Cam Banda has been a regular option out of the backfield for Shawsheen and a nice change of pace from his brother Jake.

"Cam is very quick," Jake said. "He's been a big factor for us this year. I wish I could have done what he does now as a sophomore."

"He's got the speed and athleticism he needs to succeed," added Eric. "He has a very bright future. He's probably the toughest kid I know."

Costabile smiled when asked about Cam Banda's success.

"The kid rushed for 500 yards and five or six touchdowns," said Costabile. "He has a great sense of running and seeing the field and it shows in his kick returns. He really has a knack for seeing the entire field."

Jake Banda said his younger brother's development and the progress made by many of the team's younger athletes are a direct result of the team's leadership.

"All five of our captains have a lot of experience in a lot of big games," Jake said. "For a ton of the new players, being able to rely on the five captains with the experience that we have definitely helped a lot of kids. The five captains lead by example and the younger kids definitely stepped up and were able to take care of their business. It's a different team, but kids worked hard over the summer to be able to fill the roles of the big players that graduated last year and two years ago. I think they've done a fantastic job."

Both Eric and Jake Banda have plans to play college football whether it be next season or after a season of postgraduate ball, but they had some business to take care of in Foxborough first.

But first things first.

"My freshman year we went to Gillette and when I walked on that field I was just amazed," Eric Banda said. "Your legs feel weak. It's amazing."

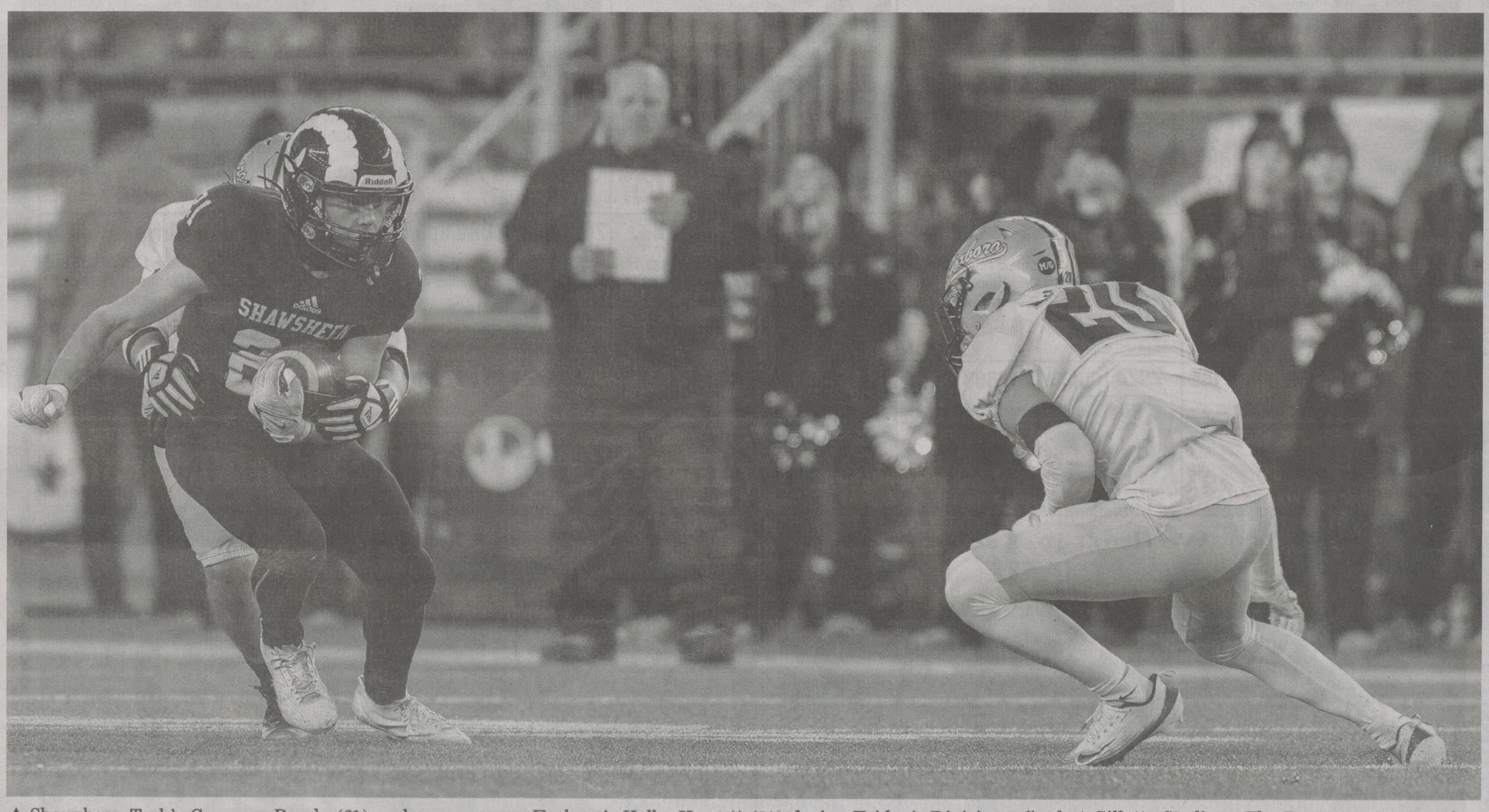
"(Gillette Stadium) is an amazing experience," added Jake. "You look up and you feel like an ant. Being able to look at the replays kind of distracted me last year. That (screen) is huge when you see it on the field."

Eric Banda admits, playing in the state finals with his family by his side makes the game even more special.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Eric said. "It's a great feeling hearing our names announced by the announcer. It's one of my favorite parts, playing with my little brother and my twin and my dad coaching too."

Pratt admitted prior to the Super Bowl, the Banda family has had quite a season, especially the senior twins Jake and Eric.

"It's worked out unbelievably," added Pratt. "Those two worked harder than anybody on the team. They all worked hard, but those two really put the work in and look where we are? We're lucky to have those guys. Without those two, we aren't even close to where we are. Not even close."



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Cameron Banda (21) makes a move on Foxboro's Kolby Hassett (20) during Friday's Division 5 final at Gillette Stadium. The Rams went on to win 14-7 and repeat as state champs. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

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Will Putney earns Eagle Scout Award

WILMINGTON — Will Putney of Wilmington has earned Scouting America's highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award.

A member of Scouting America Troop 56, Wilmington, Putney is one of only approximately six percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank, according to Scoutmaster Dave Ademek.

Putney started his scouting journey as a Webelos Scout in Cub Scout Pack 361, Wilmington and continued his rise to success in Troop 56, Wilmington. Each candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community, church, or synagogue-related service project to earn his Eagle. Putney chose to redesign the children's room in The Book Store Next Door to create more space and make the books more accessible to kids.

He directed a team of volunteers to build custom shelves, organize books into colorful new bins, install elements like new lighting and slat wall for book displays, seat cushions for window seating, and many more special features.

Troop 56, Wilmington extends their heartiest congratulations to their newest Eagle Scout, Will Putney.

◀▲ Wilmington's Will Putney, above, achieved Scouting's highest advancement award, Eagle Scout. At left, he receives congratulations from Rep. Dave Robertson, who is also an Eagle Scout. (Courtesy photos)

Governor signs bill protecting public transportation workers from assault

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey signed a bill that strengthens protections for public transportation workers.

An act relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker (H4645) expands current laws on assault and battery against public employees to include public transit workers, ensuring they receive similar legal protections as other public employees.

"Public transportation employees do important work every day to keep our trains and buses moving on time and ensure the safety of all passengers," said Governor Healey. "They should never be subject to any form of assault simply for doing their jobs. This bill ensures that they have the protections they deserve and will enhance safety for all users of our public transportation system. I'm grateful to the leadership of Chairs Day and Edwards, Senator Collins, Representative McGonagle, our partners in the Legislature and the Carmen's Union to pass this essential legislation."

"The people who operate and support our transit system should be able to show up to work each day without fear of violence," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This law expands critical protections for our workers and helps ensure a safer, more secure environment for everyone who relies on public transportation."

"This bill responds to growing concerns from transit agencies and labor advocates about the rising number of attacks on workers, making the passage of this legislation critical," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "The House remains committed to protecting workers and supporting those who serve the Commonwealth in essential roles. I want to thank Governor Healey for signing this bill into law, as well as Chairman Day, Chairman McGonagle and all my colleagues in the House, along with our partners in the Senate, for recognizing the importance of this legislation."

"Every region of our economy depends on the people who keep the busses and trains humming, and this new law takes a strong step forward in protecting workers who show up every day to do just that," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Our historic investments in transit would mean nothing if not for the people who greet customers, run our transit systems, and ensure the public is safe. I applaud Governor Healey for signing this bill, thank Senator Collins for sponsoring it in the Senate, and look forward to seeing these measures protect transit workers around the state."

"All transit workers deserve to come to work feeling safe and protected," said Interim Secretary and General Manager Phillip Eng. "These employees work tirelessly to serve the public, keeping them moving safe and reliably. Transit workers work 365 days a year to ensure that we have a robust transit system that is safe, supporting riders that depend on mass transportation and allowing everyone the option to choose transit. Know that our labor workforce is dedicated, is a part of the communities they serve, and deserve a workplace grounded in respect and security. I want to thank the Legislature and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for expanding Bill H.4645 to recognize transit professionals. The law affirms that they are entitled to the full protections necessary so they in turn can better deliver the best-in-class transit system that the public depends on and deserves."

"This is a significant victory for everyone who rides or operates public transit. Our MBTA bus and train operators deserve to be safe on the job and commuters deserve to know that public transportation is safe," said Jim Evers, President of the Boston Carmen's Union Local 589. "This law will ensure that those who assault public transit workers will be held accountable and that our valued transportation employees are protected. Our transit workers keep Massachusetts moving every day and deserve our utmost respect."

"Our transit workers keep Greater Boston moving every day and deserve our utmost respect," said William Berardino, Vice-President of Boston Carmen's Union Local 589. "We are thankful that our members and all public transit employees can now go to work knowing that they are respected and protected. The days of assaulting public transportation workers without fear or reprisal must come to an end — and this bill will help immensely to that goal."

"Every worker deserves safety on the job, yet so many jobs are inherently dangerous and every year there are workers right here in MA who are injured and/or killed on the job. We are proud to join thousands of transportation workers across the state to celebrate this new law that will make their essential jobs safer," said President Massachusetts AFL-CIO Chrissy Lynch. "We thank the state legislature for getting this bill to the Governor's desk, and we thank the Governor for enthusiastically signing it. We are looking forward to building off of this to create safer working conditions for more frontline and essential workers."

Our public transit system runs because of the dedication of workers who show up every day to serve us," said Representative Michael S. Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. "Today the Commonwealth affirms our continued commitment to protect those workers who are essential to the success of our everyday lives. I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate and the Governor for their partnership in passing this measure into law."

"Today's signing marks a monumental step in protecting those who keep our commuters moving," said Senator Lydia Edwards, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. "Transit workers serve on the front lines of our communities every single day, and it is essential that they feel safe, protected, and respected while simply doing their jobs. This legislation reaffirms our commitment to creating a transit system where workers can focus on serving the public without fear of harassment. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Senator Nick Collins for leading on this legislation, Senate Ways and Means for their advocacy, and Senate President Spilka for her support. I'm proud of my colleagues for standing firmly behind this priority, and I'd like to thank Governor Healey for signing these critical protections into law."

"Transit workers are among the most essential employees of our Commonwealth, carrying out the steady and often unseen work that allows tens of thousands of people to travel safely and reliably each day. Their commitment keeps our cities moving, even under challenging and unpredictable circumstances," said Senator Nick Collins. "When the rights and safety of these workers are impinged upon, it is an affront to the invaluable service they provide and the trust the public places in them. We must remain vigilant in safeguarding their wellbeing, as they encounter nearly every facet of public life in this line of work. With the passage of this legislation, strengthening protections and expanding the definition of what constitutes an assault against a transit worker, we are sending a clear message that we do not take their hard work for granted and that we stand firmly behind those who keep our Commonwealth connected. Thank you to Senate President Karen Spilka for making this a priority as well as Governor Maura Healey and MBTA GM Phil Eng for your support for our transit workers."

"Our transit workers provide critical services all over the Commonwealth, yet are many times assaulted by the very customers they serve. I have listened to dozens of stories of these workers being stabbed, spit on and threatened and it must stop," said Representative Joseph McGonagle. "I am so thrilled that the entire legislature has prioritized this important issue. The right to feel safe and supported on the job is just that, a right. I'm also extremely grateful to the brave men and women who came forward to share their stories. Thank you especially to House Speaker Mariano, Chair Day, my colleagues in the Senate and all those who helped get this bill passed, and a big thank you to Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll for recognizing the importance of this legislation."

Effective Jan. 4, 2025, this bill creates a heightened penalty for perpetrators of assault and battery against public employees. It also adds public transit workers or any transit worker contracted or employed to operate public transit services to the list of public employees subject to this section. The bill also broadens the definition of assault to include the projection of bodily fluids.

Since taking office, Governor Healey has prioritized improving the safety and reliability of public transportation across the state. She appointed Phil Eng as General Manager of the MBTA who has overseen a transformative period, eliminating all subway speed restrictions for the first time in over 20 years, modernizing signal systems and hiring thousands of workers. Governor Healey the Legislature have also invested record funding in the MBTA, regional transit authorities, roads and bridges across the state.

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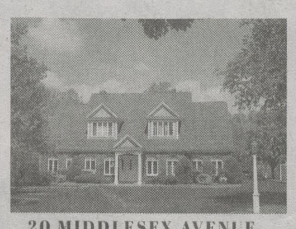
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11/27&12/4

Lifestyle

Come meet Santa during local photo opps

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

The yearly photo with Santa has become a holiday tradition for most families.

Whether those visiting with St. Nick are happy and willing participants, or a bit shy with a tear in their eye, these photos still hold memories that will be cherished for years to come.

In past years, the most obvious place to get a photo with Santa has been the local department store or shopping mall, but for those looking to avoid the crowds of holiday shoppers, Santa will be making several local appearances offering photo opportunities this holiday season.

The historic Stevens-Coolidge House, located at 153 Chickering Road in North Andover, is hosting a Sensory-Friendly Photos with Santa event on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Meet Santa in a quiet, sensory-friendly setting to get a professional photographer to capture this holiday memory with Santa. This atmosphere is much more welcoming than a crowded shopping mall for those with family members who have sensory issues, or for the family member who may be overly shy when it comes to meeting Santa.

Pre-registration is required for this event. To make a reservation or to ask questions about the event, e-mail Julie Olivere at *olivere@trustees.org*.

Saint Nick will also be stopping at a few local farms this holiday season to feed his reindeer and meet everyone for a photo.

The Santa Social at Krochmal Farms, located at 31 Jennies Way in Tewksbury, featuring the "Big Man in Red," will take place on Dec. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, and 23.

Experience Krochmal Farm's transformation into Santa's home away from home, fully decorated for the season with lights and holiday music.

This Tewksbury version of the North Pole makes for the perfect setting to have a chat with Santa.

Krochmal Farm adds to the "winter wonderland" effect by offering horse drawn wagon rides, roasting marshmallows over an open fire, and unlimited hot cocoa to keep you warm.

After you meet Santa and snap a photo with him, meet and pet some of his farm animal friends.

To purchase tickets for this event, visit *www.krochmalfarm.com*.

Another local farm that is hosting Mr. Claus this season is the Good Pickin' Farm, located at 5 Gould Road in Westford.

Enjoy the Holiday on the Farm event on Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20, and Sunday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Experience a dazzling display of lights, cozy-up on a mini hayride, and visit with Santa, the Grinch and other holiday friends.

After your photo with Santa, stop by the "live manger" display for some extra fun and photo ops petting the animals.

Tickets for this event can be purchased at *www.goodpickinfarm.com*.

For those who are early risers, consider attending the Breakfast with Santa event held at the Westford Regency, located at 219 Littleton Road in Westford.

View the decorated trees, wreaths and gingerbread while enjoying a delicious breakfast and a visit with Santa himself on Dec. 13 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Holiday Brunch will also be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To make reservations visit *www.westfordregency.com*.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, those looking for a chance to meet Santa while enjoying a bite to eat, visit Santa at the Oak & Iron Santa event, located at 18 Red Spring Road in Andover.

Visit anytime between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. to take in all the seasonal decor, and adults can enjoy a brew while the kids chat with Santa and have their photo taken.

For those looking to have a holiday photo taken with Santa and one of the four legged members of your family, Free Photos with Santa will be offered at all PetSmart stores on Dec. 13 and 14, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Pets are encouraged to wear their most festive attire for a free Photo with Santa Claus.

Nearby store locations include Chelmsford, Woburn, Salem, New Hampshire, and Nashua, New Hampshire.

For a full list of participating area stores, and to book a time slot for your pet's photo with Santa, visit *www.petsmart.com*.

This holiday, avoid the parking hassle and crowds of busy shoppers at the mall while still preserving those precious Christmas photo memories.

Visiting one of the many locally hosted Santa meet and greet/photo events can be a new and wondrous experience that will provide lots of family fun, and memories that will last a lifetime.

▲ This year, avoid the crowds at the mall and visit Santa at one of his many local appearances he will be making this holiday season.

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI25P6191EA

Estate of:
John J. O'Shea
Date of Death:
August 31, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Danielle O'Shea of Merrimack NH**

Danielle O'Shea of Merrimack NH has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

251283 12/11/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI25P6242EA

Estate of:
Leonard M. Flynn
Date of Death:
August 29, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Margaret Chase of North Chelmsford MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Margaret Chase of North Chelmsford MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

251294 12/11/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P6063EA

Estate of:
Gildo DiMambro
Date of Death: 11/19/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Assunta DiMambro of Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Assunta DiMambro of Wilmington MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/02/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 04, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

251286 12/11/25

We're One Wilmington's Festival of Trees

We're One Wilmington's 15th annual Festival of Trees displayed dozens of festively decorated trees up for raffle.

(Rosalyn Impink photos)

Transportation terminal sits on a 26.2 acre parcel of land

RTC FROM PAGE 1

admitted current market dynamics will likely result in the winning proposal containing a sizable allocation of multi-family housing. Responses from developers are due back in March, while the winning bid would be selected sometime in late 2026.

According to the Massport executive, last year, when state officials began formally gauging interest in the property by preparing a request-for-information (RFI), two corporate developers responded by suggesting that between 300 to 400 apartments be erected on the target parcel.

Before putting out the RFP this week, Hargens later emphasized, state officials combed through current and previous economic development studies commissioned by the city to explore the future of the Commerce Way and New Boston Street corridors once the New Boston Street bridge opens and reestablishes a decades-lost connection between North Woburn and East Woburn.

Both of those reports included recommendations that a pedestrian bridge be erected over the commuter rail tracks in order to connect commuter rail and other Anderson RTC users with the North Woburn side of New Boston Street, where thousands are employed in an isolated industrial park. A host of other amenities, such as crosswalks and bike paths/lanes, are also proposed to foster the redevelopment of those businesses.

"We really envision a development here that's consistent with the plan and vision for mixed-use with housing and improved connectivity to that area," said the Massport representative, referring to a 2017 planning study and second analysis released earlier this year thanks to a $117,000 state grant from MassDevelopment.

Situated off of Atlantic Avenue right by the future site of the New Boston Street bridge, the 7,900 square foot transportation terminal sits on a 26.2-acre parcel of land that is sandwiched between Commerce Way and the Lowell line commuter rail tracks. Jointly owned by the MBTA, the Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and Massport — which operates its Logan Air Port Express bus service from the site — Anderson RTC is also a popular destination point for Amtrak Downeaster service customers.

In its current condition, the Anderson RTC building/terminal takes up about 1.4 acres of land. However, the larger lot consists of a sea of parking pavement, as there is more than 2,359 surface-level spaces scattered across the parcel that are set aside for various user groups. Commuter rail parking takes up the largest share of the lot with 1,396 stalls, while the overnight Logan Express lot includes 877 spaces.

Though eyeing a wholesale redevelopment of the entire parcel, state officials are concentrating the first phase of that potential project on a six-acre portion of the site that's situated closest to the Presidential Way side of the property.

"There was a notion [expressed in last year's RFI responses] that the project would need to be phased over time. Even if we did all 26 acres, that would take decades [for all that housing] to be absorbed into the market," said Hargens on Tuesday night. "[The first parcel] is on the northwest end of the site and isn't specifically configured. It's farthest from the existing terminal, where we have the most flexibility."

Notably, because Anderson RTC sits within the Industri-plex superfund site, where housing is prohibited due to a capped plume of subsurface pollution dating back to the region's industrial heyday, the federal government would have to waive those use-restrictions through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review.

The property also happens to sit in the one section of the city where multi-family housing projects are allowed by right. Notably, city leaders begrudgingly altered the zoning to allow for denser housing projects in order to come into compliance with the state's mandated MBTA Communities regulations.

Back in 2009, through a joint City Council and Planning Board effort, a special overlay district was established around the entire Commerce Way corridor between East and North Woburn in an attempt to encourage mixed-use redevelopments that included housing components with densities as high as 40-units per acre.

Then, nothing happened for some seven years after the special zoning rules were established. The pendulum then swung in the opposite direction starting in 2017, when Boston's Cabot, Cabot and Forbes unveiled plans to tear down the Fitzgerald Tile site to construct 289 apartments over a pair of new restaurants. Another 200 units were later OK'd at 200 Presidential Way, now known as the Emery Flats apartments, and by the summer of 2019, the City Council had OK'd the construction of another 325 apartments at the Woburn Village site at the opposite end of the New Boston Street corridor.

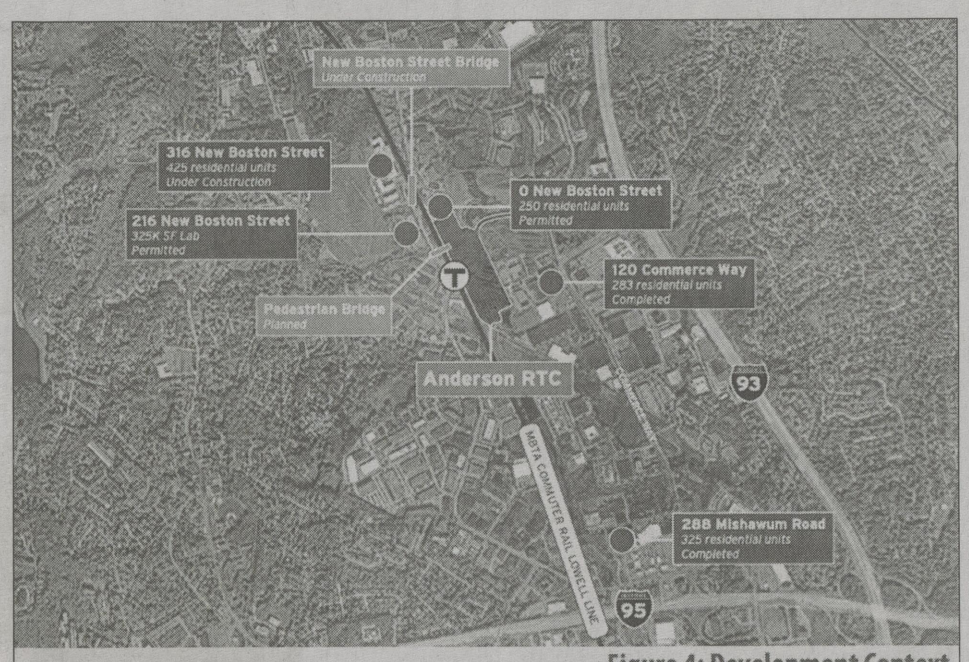

Figure 4: Development Context
Anderson RTC RFI
Woburn, MA

Though trying to discourage other housing-centric redevelopments by passing a zoning change in 2020, the council has since that time OK'd the construction of another 675 apartments at 0 New Boston and 316 New Boston St. A 325,000 square foot life sciences project is also planned for New Boston Street.

Given that surge in new construction, many on the City Council this Tuesday night argued the redevelopment of the Anderson RTC site would only exacerbate the strain being put on surrounding roadways and water, sewer, and other utility system infrastructure.

"I have a lot of faith in the EPA and Joe LeMay and his team [in making sure any future residents there are protected at this sensitive superfund site]," said Ward 5's Darlene Mercer-Bruen. "But I don't have a lot of faith in how you're going to mitigate this. We're talking about a lot of people and it doesn't sound like they'll all be using the MBTA."

"My concern as is my colleague's is the mitigation aspect," later chimed in Ward 6 Councilor Lou DiMambro, whose constituents will along with East Woburn residents be most affected by any negative redevelopment impacts. "If you put 400 or 500 units down there, we're going to need to build up our infrastructure."

The Massport executive later promised the city officials that he and Anderson RTC's other owners will do their best to make sure the redevelopment plan includes — to the extent it's economically feasible — suggestions for improving area utilities and traffic.

"This project won't be able to fund all the upgrades you're envisioning for that district, but it needs to be a major contributor [to whatever investments are necessary]," said the chief development officer.

Hargens appeared at the request of Mayor Michael Concannon, who during his state-of-the-city address in January mentioned he was involved in ongoing discussions about the future of Anderson RTC. According to Concannon, Massport and other state officials have thus far been receptive to feedback about the redevelopment options by doing the following:

- Making sure that the company deemed to have the best proposal adheres to all state and federal requirements for safeguarding the integrity of an impermeable membrane over the superfund site is not compromised by the project;
- By considering the city's efforts to construct a pedestrian bridge in the area by giving preference to firms that are willing to contribute to that undertaking;
- And by seeking redevelopment plans from companies willing to focus on a mix of commercial and residential uses.

"I appreciate the opportunity for the city to offer its input," said Concannon at the outset of the gathering in City Hall. "I feel like we're being listened to."

Upcoming local events

Donation drives at Tewksbury Public Library:
- Pick an ornament to decorate and bring a donation for the Tewksbury Community Food Pantry
- Bring a donation for the Toiletries Drive put on by the Tewksbury Democratic Committee to benefit the Glenice Sheehan House for Women
- Pick a gift for the Giving Tree for patients at Tewksbury State Hospital

Donation drive at Town Hall:
- New or gently used Coat Drive. Bring a new or gently used coat to the bottom floor of Town Hall.

Donation drive at Tewksbury fire stations:
- New unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots

December 12, Veterans Holiday Luncheon, 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. There is limited seating for this event and reservations ARE REQUIRED. Call 978-640-4485 to register for this event.

December 13, VFW Post 8164 Kids Xmas Party, up to age 10 years old. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at TJ Callahan's Function Room. Join us for crafts, food, and a visit from Santa and the Grinch. Bring wrapped gift with child's name. RSVP Dec.5. 978.284.9880 or 781.727.3340.

Until December 15 – Coat Drive, Tewksbury Health Department, lower level. New or clean, gently used coats will be collected.

December 18, Tewksbury Indoor Community Market, Senior Center, 4 - 7 p.m. Vendors, food trucks and more! *Tewksburymarket.com* Additional market dates are Jan. 9 and Feb. 12 — save the dates!

December 19, Tewksbury's own Silvertones Dance Band, Tewksbury Senior Center, 175 Chandler St., Tewksbury, music and dance concert, Friday, Dec. 19 7 - 10 p.m. doors open at 6:30 p.m. with vocalist BB Braxten, $10 at the door includes: cake, coffee & tea; bring your own munchies

Public Health Museum, **Thursdays and Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 365 East St. on the campus of Tewksbury Hospital. *Publichealthmuseum.org*

Book Store Next Door, **Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Street-car Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults $3, seniors and youth age 3-12 $2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, **Mondays and Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62),Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, **Saturdays and Sundays**, noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

Election scheduled for April 25

ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

The 2026 annual town election will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The 2026 annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Check-in begins at 8 a.m.

Help Wanted

INDEPENDENT WRITING POSITION

Part time writing position available
covering local government, feature articles, some evening assignments. Additional writing assignments possible.
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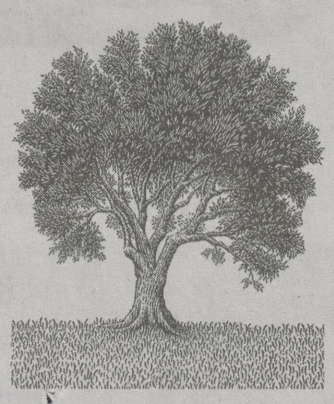

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Rep. Nguyen taps alum of Pressley, Chang-Diaz campaigns as manager

ANDOVER — In her first official hire for her Congressional campaign, State Representative Tram Nguyen has hired Annika Jensen as her campaign manager.

Jensen is no stranger to Massachusetts primaries and brings a wealth of organizing and fundraising experience. She served as the youngest staffer on Rep. Ayanna Pressley's insurgent inaugural bid for Congress in 2018, going on to manage State Senator Becca Rausch's successful reelection campaign in 2020 and David Halbert's 2021 campaign for Boston City Council At-Large, before she joined State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz's 2022 gubernatorial campaign as Deputy Organizing Director.

She has since held finance roles at Harvard University and with the Harris-Walz Transition Team, and most recently worked for Partners in Democracy.

Statement from Rep. Tram Nguyen:

"I'm proud of the team we're building to fight for working families in Washington. Annika is a veteran of tough Massachusetts races, and together, we'll ensure families across the Sixth District know they will have a Representative they can count on."

BSA Troop 56 selling Christmas trees

BSA Troop 56 of Wilmington is once again selling Christmas trees at Colonial Plaza as part of its annual fundraiser, with proceeds supporting camping trips, major outdoor adventures, and essential gear like tents. This year's effort helps the Scouts prepare for a planned 70-mile trek through the mountains of West Virginia in 2027. The troop's trees — sourced from Canada — are available through Dec. 14, with sales hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 4 - 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pictured is Scoutmaster David Adamek and Scouts Johnny, Thomas, Caiden, and Sam. (Paige Impink photo)

Agreement will hold even if property sold to new developer

SELECT FROM PAGE 1

would stand if the property were to be sold to a new owner. Gingrich assured her that the agreement would hold even in that circumstance, and the board voted unanimously to approve of the plan.

Next, Christine Canevari, the president of the board of Wilmington's Farmers' Market Association (WFMA), presented her proposal for the inclusion of the Wilmington Farmers' Market in the town's annual budget.

Canevari told the board that, in 2023, the WFMA received funds through the Winchester Hospital community benefit grant program. This funding enabled the WFMA to match EBT debit card purchases between around $20-$40 as well as expand their events.

However, the grant ended in October of this year, and so the benefits they have been able to offer the community are now put in danger.

"We have become known as a place where people can go," she continued.

Having to end these programs could pose a risk to the food security that some have been able to find thanks to the WFMA.

Canevari asked for a total of $7,500 dollars per year to continue current programs as well as expand to a year round market in the senior center.

Chair Frank West asked if the group would continue to use the town common in the summer if this were the case. Canevari replied that this would be in addition to the summer market, as that program is particularly loved amongst those in the community.

West then asked if she had a Plan B for if they do not get this funding. Canevari stated that they would have to resort to private sponsorships in order to keep the program afloat. However, she added that this would also cease all growth for WFMA, meaning that no new events would be started in the coming years.

No vote was yet held on this matter.

The final appointment was a request for a one day alcohol license to sell beer and wine at the Department of Elderly Services. The request was made by Terri Marciello on behalf of Decanted Wine Truck, and a police presence has already been coordinated for the event scheduled for Dec. 11 at the senior center.

The board approved the request by a unanimous vote.

A Salute to Service was then made to US Air Force Airman first class Leonard Ciaccio. The board presented him with a certificate in honor of his contribution to both the community and the country.

A number of Board to Consider items were then voted on and approved unanimously, including two requests from John Romano from the Sons and Daughters of Italy. He requested the use of the municipal parking lot and fourth of July building for events in Sept. and Oct. of next year.

Other items included the approval of licenses for businesses across Wilmington in 2026, such as liquor licenses, common victualer licenses, and Class 1 vehicle sales licenses.

The meeting was then opened for public comments.

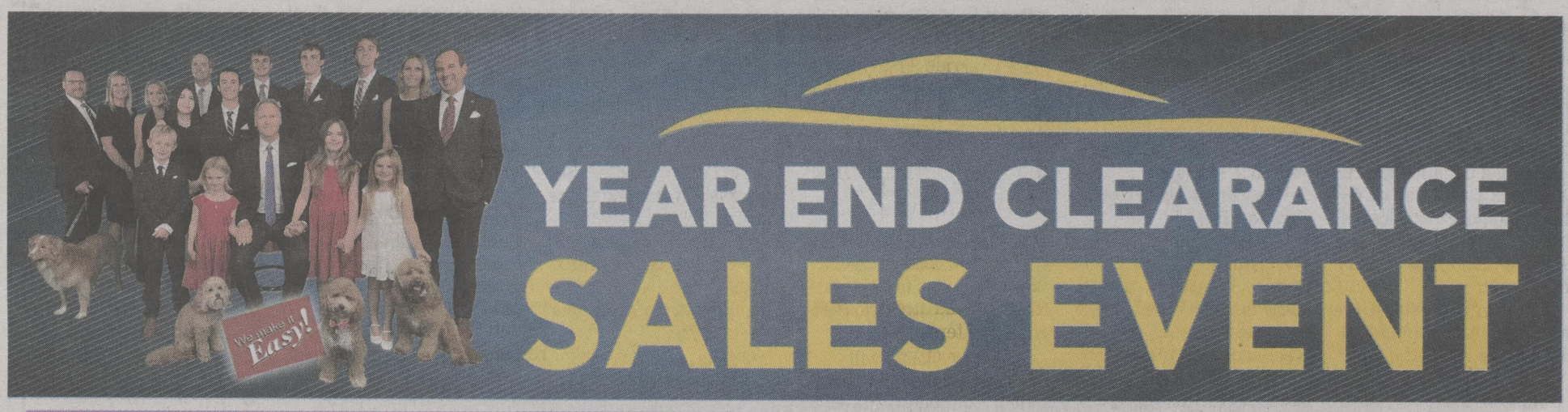
A group from Tewksbury approached the microphone to inform the board of a large lithium-ion battery storage facility planned to be constructed in their town. As Tewksbury abuts Wilmington, they felt it was necessary to bring this development to the attention of town officials, as they do not believe it to be safe.

Their fear is that this facility may pose both a fire and chemical hazard to the surrounding neighborhoods, which includes a senior living community of over 1,000 individuals owned by the parents of Dawn Sheehan, one of the presenters.

Additionally, an emergency at the storage center could require an evacuation zone of one-third of a mile surrounding the location, potentially putting thousands more at risk.

The board thanked the group for their time and concern.

Their next scheduled meeting is Jan. 12.



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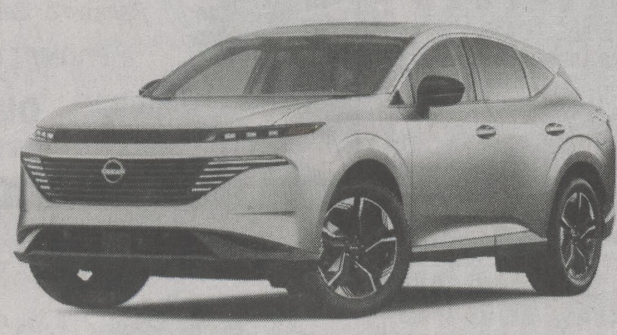

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